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Country programme document

Albania

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Albania is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,345,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $12,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

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Programme rationale

1. Albania, an upper-middle-income country since 2009 and candidate for European Union (EU) membership since 2014, has achieved considerable improvements in the situation of its child population of approximately 700,000, equivalent to 24 per cent of the entire population.[1]

2. Infant mortality and under-five mortality rates have steadily declined, reaching 13 and 14 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, in 2015 (compared to over 30 deaths per 1,000 live births in the early 2000s), and immunization coverage is nearly universal. Nevertheless, infant and child mortality rates are still among the highest[2] in the subregion; in the underserved areas of mountainous Albania, these rates are twice the national average.[3] Likewise, the total burden of disease[4] for children aged 1-4 has declined significantly but remains the highest in the South-eastern Europe region. Among Roma children,[5] 70 per cent do not get regular medical check-ups.[6] Government spending on health care is about 2.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), among the lowest in South-eastern Europe.[7]

3. By 2014, net enrolment rates in pre-primary[8] (ages 3-5) and primary (ages 6-10) education had reached 81 and 96 per cent, respectively, compared to 67 and 91 per cent, in 2010.[9] However, about half of young Roma children still do not have access to pre-primary education,[10] while up to 40 per cent of Roma aged 6-14 have never attended school.[11] The out-of-school children category also includes many children with disabilities (exact numbers remain unknown). In 2014, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics reported that about 15,000 children of primary and lower-secondary school age do not attend school. Public spending for education is 3.5 per cent of GDP,[12] a level significantly lower than the average of 6.3 per cent for countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

4. Despite the country's impressive economic progress of the past decade, children in Albania remain disproportionately affected by poverty. Between 2002 and 2012, the incidence of national poverty decreased from 25.4 to 14.3 per cent,[13] whereas child poverty stood at 20.1 per cent.[14] UNICEF-supported analysis (in

[1] Albania Institute for Statistics (INSTAT) data, 2015.
[2] United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, *Level and Trends in Child Mortality*, 2015.
[3] Ibid.
[4] As measured by the disability-adjusted life years (DALY) methodology.
[5] According to INSTAT, in 2011 Roma children accounted for 0.3 per cent of Albania's child population.
[6] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania*, 2012.
[7] World Bank, *Albania: World Bank Group Partnership Program Snapshot*, 2015.
[8] It should be noted that 5-year-old children represent the bulk of the cohort enrolled in pre-primary education; much lower rates exist for children aged 3 and 4.
[9] UNESCO Institute for Statistics data, 2016.
[10] UNICEF, *Access of Roma children to education and health services in Albania*, 2014.
[11] UNDP, *Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania*, 2012.
[12] UNESCO Institute for Statistics data, 2016.
[13] World Bank, *Living Conditions Measurement Survey*, 2012.
[14] INSTAT calculations.

2013[15] and 2015) highlighted multiple dimensions of child deprivation rooted in poverty. At 1.6 per cent of GDP, the level of investment in social protection is among the lowest in the region, and primarily contributes to cash assistance, with minimal investment in social support and care services. Owing to the limited coverage of households with children, ineffective targeting and low monetary value of cash transfers per family, the national Economic Aid scheme has faced challenges to adequately protect children from poverty and deprivation.[16] The social protection institutional set-up and mechanisms require a more systemic approach to responding to the multidimensional nature of poverty, deprivation and the underlying vulnerability that children and families experience.

5. National surveys reveal a widespread phenomenon of domestic violence, reported by 58 per cent of children (aged 10-14) and 59 per cent of women.[17] Exposure to cyber-violence and/or sexual abuse online is also high.[18] In 2015, Albanian police registered 1,167 crimes against children (aged 0-18), representing 5 per cent of the total number of crimes against persons. Child labour involves approximately 5 per cent of children, with most working children labouring under hazardous conditions or in the street.[19] Lacking a comprehensive integrated national system of child protection, the response will need to overcome bottlenecks related to inefficient, overlapping and fragmented interventions. Local action is predominantly dependent on services provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).[20] High expectations are associated with the newly defined, more active role of municipalities in social services provision — though the establishment of appropriate governance mechanisms at national and local levels is still pending.

6. UNICEF-supported research showed that more than 37 per cent of the 989 children residing under institutional care in 2014 were below age 3 (with no gender bias identified), and 90 per cent were from biological families that did not have the means to provide minimum necessary care.[21] Despite initial promising results in modelling foster/kinship care for abandoned children, the infrastructure of institutional care remains the mainstay of the childcare system.

7. The Albanian justice system still displays a punitive approach to juveniles in conflict with the law. The number of children (almost exclusively boys) in pre-trial detention increased from 176 in 2011 to 338 in 2014, while the average length of detention grew from 133 to 140 days.[22] Of 11 countries in the region included in the UNICEF evaluation of the impact of juvenile justice reforms in 2014, Albania had the largest average duration of pre-trial detention and showed an increase in the numbers of children in pre- and post-trial detention between 2006 and 2012.[23] Diversion and restorative justice remain insufficiently regulated by legislation. Social reintegration is still fragmented, relying primarily on donor-funded NGOs.

[15] Child Rights Observatory, *Child Poverty in Albania*, 2013.
[16] UNICEF, *Reforming economic aid: from survival to investment in poverty reduction*, 2011.
[17] INSTAT, *National population-based surveys on domestic violence in Albania*, 2009 and 2013.
[18] World Vision, *Study on child online safety in Albania*, 2015.
[19] International Labour Organization (ILO), *Working children in the Republic of Albania*, 2013; UNICEF, *National study on children in street situations*, 2014.
[20] UNICEF, *Mapping and analysis of Albania's Child Protection system*, 2015.
[21] UNICEF, *Survey of children resident in public and non-public institutions in Albania*, 2014.
[22] Official statistics of the Ministry of Justice.
[23] UNICEF CEE/CIS, *Multi-country evaluation of the impact of the juvenile justice system reforms on children in conflict with the law*, 2015.

There are insufficient guarantees for the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime.

8. Availability, regularity, disaggregation and analysis of data on the situation of children have been serious bottlenecks, hampering evidence-based planning and monitoring of national programmes and international development assistance. Methodological discrepancies exist between the national and international practices in data collection and interpretation. Nationwide surveys capture important impact-level results but have been too infrequent and donor-driven, while administrative data collection systems are yet to mature. In most sectors, computer-based Management Information Systems are under development, and information on specific population groups and/or types of vulnerabilities is yet to be captured. National reporting on the situation of children could be stronger in highlighting inequities, and response actions could be sharper, if more disaggregated data were available.

9. For the country to achieve equitable growth and social cohesion, all children should be able to share in the benefits of the country's social and economic progress of the past decades. However, equity gaps still persist. Children in situations of particular vulnerability and marginalization — those living in poor households, of Roma or Egyptian ethnicity, out of school, with disability, in detention, from migrant and refugee families, in residential care — remain chronically deprived of developmental opportunities in health, education, civic participation and other areas. This deprivation hampers the realization of their rights and narrows their prospects to thrive.

10. Albania is prone to natural disasters, such as floods in low-lying coastal areas, heavy snowfalls isolating mountainous populations, and seismic activity. The potential impact on children and families ranges from damage to households and assets to human casualties. Meanwhile, child-focused emergency preparedness and response capacities are insufficient, particularly in the absence of a strong tradition of disaster risk reduction (DRR). The geographical location of Albania also makes the country a possible route for the refugee and migrant flows across Europe.

11. One of the most important lessons learned in addressing barriers and bottlenecks that are still hindering results for children is that well-defined enforcement mechanisms are needed to accompany child rights legislative initiatives aligned with international norms and standards. In the areas of social protection, health, nutrition, education, juvenile justice and child protection, significant gaps prevent implementation of provisions of national legislation. Identified are the following gaps: weak or absent accountability mechanisms, performance standards, formalized job descriptions, and management and monitoring tools. In many instances, implementation plans lack the entire budgeting component. This critically important component includes evidence to cost children's services and formulate budgetary submissions in line with national Public Finance Management requirements. The need to strengthen national capacities in results-based management and budgeting was highlighted in the evaluation of the Delivering as One programme of cooperation between the Government of Albania and the United Nations, 2012-2016. Findings of multi-country evaluations (MCEs) commissioned by UNICEF in the Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region in 2013-2015 informed the country office's programmatic thinking in relation to decentralization, governance capacity gaps, root causes of marginalization, cross-sectoral integration, quality and utilization of research, and change in social attitudes.

12. The value of cross-sectoral approaches is another lesson learned. During 2012-2016, UNICEF successfully supported the Government and civil society partners in establishing mechanisms of intersectoral action in several areas: tracing and reintegrating out-of-school children; following up on cases of unregistered births; reaching out to Roma children with health care and early education services; and supporting social rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. The positive impact of intersectoral subnational collaboration in food safety and child feeding standards was documented in the evaluation of a UNICEF-led Programme on Reducing Child Malnutrition in Albania, implemented jointly with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations from 2010 to 2013.

Programme priorities and partnerships

13. The overarching goal is to achieve, by 2021, the progressive realization of rights of all children in Albania, accompanied by the reduction of equity gaps, to be based on effective child-focused policies, systematically enforced accountabilities with adequate public resources, and strengthened respect for and protection of children's rights.

14. The country programme results will contribute to progress made by Albania to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular: 1 (No poverty), 3 (Good health and well-being), 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 6 (Clean water and sanitation), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), 13 (Climate action), 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The programme is fully aligned with national priorities of EU integration, including democracy and rule of law, independent and accountable judicial institutions, consolidated good governance, social cohesion based on a modern educational system, universal and quality health care coverage, expanded employment opportunities, a stronger social protection system, gender equality and social inclusion.[24]

15. Refinement of the country programme results and targets took place during extensive consultations and workshops with national government and civil society partners in 2015-2016. The country programme will contribute to the 2017-2021 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) result areas of Governance and Rule of Law (Outcome I), Social Cohesion (Outcome II) and Environment and Climate Change (Outcome IV).

16. The Government and UNICEF, along with their partners, have been guided by three main considerations in identifying the two priorities for the programme of cooperation, 2017-2021: Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion, and Protection and access to justice for children. First, in each of the health, education, social protection and justice sectors, there is already a solid base of newly introduced equity-focused standards of care and services for children. These standards, once applied nationwide, will help to guarantee sustainability, laying the foundations for a stronger system of national governance, particularly at the local level. Prioritizing governance for children (including, planning and management competencies to deliver quality services for children), as opposed to stand-alone projects, reflects the UNICEF programmatic strategic shift. Second, the

[24] Government of Albania, *National Strategy for Development and Integration*, 2015-2020.

administrative decentralization reform undertaken by Albania provides the opportunity for implanting quality, equity-focused services for children at the local level in the newly established 61 municipalities, subject to their strengthened governance capacity. Third, there is a need to prioritize efforts to build a system of child protection and justice. These efforts will build on existing elements while acknowledging the overall absence of a system-based approach and an over-reliance on projects run by NGOs, which almost fully depend on donor funding.

17. The programme components of Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion, Protection and access to justice for children, and Programme effectiveness will address the priorities of establishing strong policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms in health, education, social protection and justice sectors, allowing duty-bearers to effectively reach and assist children and families in situations of particular vulnerability and/or exclusion. Clear assignment of accountabilities, regular supply of strong evidence, attention to citizens' demanding better services and protection of rights will provide the foundational blocks for implementation of public policies and programmes. Alongside the sector-tied targets, intersectoral child protection mechanisms will be strengthened, to provide the fabric of services, referral points and collaborative networks necessary to respond to cases of child violence, abuse, neglect or injustice.

Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion

18. This programme component will address key legislative, institutional, data- or resource-related bottlenecks preventing equitable implementation of child rights in health, education and social protection. The long-term vision of success is that (a) all boys and girls in Albania, especially those in situations of marginalization (those affected by poverty, with disabilities, from Roma and Egyptian minorities, living in underserved regions and/or on the move) equitably access quality social services that fully meet international norms and standards, and (b) that children and their families receive appropriate assistance to overcome multidimensional deprivations. Effective governance at national and especially subnational/local levels is a prerequisite for such services to be designed, planned, delivered and monitored.

19. This vision is fully in line with the priorities of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) for 2015-2020 related to the consolidation of good governance, effective investment in human capital, and social cohesion. It is also in harmony with specific targets included in the new national strategies of pre-university education and social protection, and strategies in health.

20. In the area of maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), the programme of cooperation will assist the Government in strengthening the health system at national and regional levels. Key areas of UNICEF support will include policy and regulatory frameworks, costing, analysis and design of financing mechanisms that ensure universal health coverage, enhanced governance and management skills, and a strengthened Health Information System, aligned with international measurement standards for monitoring health and nutrition outcomes and underpinned by disaggregated data serving to prioritize the most vulnerable women and children. To expand the application of the new MNCH regulatory framework, in line with the adopted protocols and standards, national and regional health authorities will be supported to establish efficient and sustainable management through capacity development and improving technical skills, including for improved data collection

and analysis, budgeting and resource allocation, and enhanced performance monitoring of MNCH service providers. Home-visiting and other forms of outreach will enable health-care professionals to identify and prioritize children and families in difficult life circumstances. Health-care professionals will be accountable, according to the new standards, to interact with national child protection actors and mechanisms on spotted incidences of child neglect, maltreatment or abuse (including gender-based violence). Early identification of developmental delays and disabilities will be given due attention. Development and operationalization of an appropriate financing formula for comprehensive MNCH-care provision will be an important element to enhance health-seeking behaviours and boost the utilization of available services, especially by Roma and Egyptian communities, as well as families of children with disabilities.

21. UNICEF will continue providing support to the Ministry of Health in the procurement of vaccines for the national immunization programme and antiretroviral medicines. The UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action will be promoted to leverage national and local DRR plans and policies, given the country's susceptibility to natural disasters.

22. In the area of early learning and inclusive education, the country programme will continue to work with the Ministry of Education and Sports in identifying out-of-school children and integrating them into school. The national Education Management Information System will incorporate monitoring instruments based on intersectoral cooperation among the education, health, civil registry and social protection authorities at the local level. UNICEF will assist in reforming national assessment systems to measure learning outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children. A regular supply of credible information will inform upgrades of the national education policies and practices, with particular focus on ethnicity- and/or gender-based inequities. To make the national education system fully inclusive in relation to identified vulnerable children (from Roma minorities, with disabilities, with learning difficulties), teaching methodologies and techniques and classroom practices and performance standards will be upgraded, in compliance with international and EU standards of inclusive education. A special 'per-student' financing formula will be developed in relation to children at risk of dropping out of school or excluded from the mainstream education system.

23. Newly endorsed Early Learning and Development Standards will form the foundation for policy decisions related to the early childhood education system — including revision of preschool curricula, pre- and in-service teacher training programmes and a special financing formula for a dedicated early education budget line. UNICEF will cooperate with the Ministry of Education and Sports in the universal introduction of a pre-primary schooling year (for children aged 5-6) by 2018, and in the systematic expansion of early childhood development services (for children aged 3-5). Parenting programmes will highlight the importance of nurturing and stimulating home environments for the development and learning of boys and girls alike, promote demand for early childhood development and social protection services, and encourage cooperation with local authorities and civil society in mobilizing resources.

24. Given that the social protection system, with UNICEF support, has been undergoing intense reform, especially related to non-residential care services, the programme will centre on developing and strengthening management and coordination mechanisms for the social protection system. Efforts will be based on

the new approach combining cash assistance with social care services, including social protection measures that facilitate children's access to health care, early learning and basic education. Fiscal space analyses, costed plans and investment cases for social protection for children will be developed to inform policymaking at central and local levels, emphasizing the latter. Tools to plan, budget, monitor and enforce social protection service delivery will be made available by UNICEF, and a cohort of professional social workers will be equipped in child- and gender-sensitive 'case management', based on the legislative framework. The national social protection Management Information System will be strengthened to regularly collect disaggregated data on children and families in particularly vulnerable situations. Solid knowledge will inform the analysis of the system's effectiveness for the mitigation of child poverty and will guide better targeting social protection based on both 'cash' and 'care'.

25. Partnerships with relevant line ministries, as well as their subordinate institutions and inspectorate bodies, regional departments for health, education and social protection, municipal administrations, civil society, and community-based organizations will be key instruments in achieving programme results. These efforts will build on the UNICEF comparative advantage of combined experience in policy design and service delivery, including through working with non-governmental actors who have been undertaking the critically important implementation phases of many initiatives agreed with the Government.

Protection and justice for children

26. This component will address key legislative, institutional, data- or resource-related bottlenecks preventing equitable implementation of child rights to protection and access to justice. The long-term vision of success is that all Albanian boys and girls, especially those in situations of particular vulnerability, are effectively protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

27. This vision is fully in line with national priorities of democracy, rule of law and social cohesion of the NSDI and harmonizes with the justice system reform strategy, social protection strategy and the vision of the country's future child protection system.

28. UNICEF assistance to the Government and the State Agency for Child Rights Protection in revising the architecture of the national child protection system, and aligning it to the reforms in the health, education, social protection and justice sectors, will strengthen prevention and response measures to abuse, violence (including gender-based violence), exploitation and neglect of children. Multisectoral collaboration and synergies will be ensured by new and existing child protection operational protocols used by various institutions.

29. At the same time, decentralized elements of the system will be sustained and expanded, optimizing the experience of community-based child protection units/workers and ensuring that newly formed municipalities are equipped to meet child protection responsibilities. UNICEF-supported reform of social protection services will be crucial in creating both normative space and resource allocation formulas for subcontracting child protection services to non-governmental operators, relying on the civil society's particular strengths and specializations in the identification, referral and counselling for cases involving violence and abuse against children.

30. To increase family resilience to, and ability to overcome, socioeconomic hardships often leading to institutionalization of children, social protection systems will be strengthened, including the capacity of social and child protection workers to identify families at risk of separation and refer them to the appropriate providers of support. These will include the national cash assistance programme, as well as specific care services the family may need. Parenting programmes, professional advice and guidance will assist families either at risk of separation or those offering kinship care for children separated from their biological parents.

31. To ensure protection and justice for all children, legislators and law enforcement authorities will be offered technical assistance in developing modern legislation and normative frameworks on child-friendly justice, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and on relevant international and EU standards. Justice for children norms and measures upholding the rights of children in conflict, as well as in contact, with the law will be operationalized through training programmes, methodological and reference materials to be developed for the Magistrates School, the Bar Association Academy, the Police Academy and the Inspectorate of Justice.

32. The Juvenile Justice Code will prioritize alternative measures to detention and collaboration between the Ministry of Justice and State Probation Services. Systems of social and child protection will be enhanced, providing social rehabilitation and reintegration of young law offenders. A holistic tracking of cases within and among sectors will be established through a computerized database of children in conflict with the law and victims/witnesses, thus enabling a wide spectrum of professionals to contribute effectively to each case — until a solution in the best interests of the child is found. The practice of strategic litigation for child rights will be promoted, using real-case evidence for the enhancement of the national normative base. This will help to inspire children and families to demand justice through legal instruments and channels.

33. Advocacy and partnerships with the parliamentary commissions, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, State Probation Services, State Agency for Child Rights Protection and civil society organizations (CSOs) will prepare the ground for necessary legal and policy changes needed to create a strong national system of protection and justice for children. Independent oversight of executive powers will be ensured by the Friends of Children group (caucus) of parliamentarians, the People's Advocate and the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.

34. Horizontal cooperation and partnerships beyond borders will be facilitated by UNICEF, with successful best practices anchored in the experiences of international and bilateral development cooperation actors, including the EU, as well as the World Bank, the Governments of Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States — given their prominent roles in supporting and financing reforms in various sectors. The Delivering as One experience of the previous programme cycle will ensure the necessary cohesion and complementarity with programmes of the United Nations system in Albania.

Programme effectiveness

35. To meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children, financial and human resources will be allocated for programme coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and communication. UNICEF will provide expert

advice, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes, in compliance with the results-based management planning and budgeting standards. The capacity of CSO partners to operate in line with the requirements of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) will be strengthened. Programming for DRR, emergency preparedness and mitigation of the effects of climate change will be given due attention.

36. Knowledge generation and management will be an essential component to ensure the quality of programme design, measurability of results and the convening power of UNICEF evidence-based advocacy. The statistics and child rights monitoring mechanisms of Albania will be strengthened to provide decision makers, service providers, children, families and society at large with reliable information to guide the country's action for children.

37. Robust and up-to-date evidence will drive Communication for Social Development, tailored to different audiences of duty-bearers and rights-holders. UNICEF global and regional experience will be capitalized upon and adjusted to the Albanian context, and will be backed up by the appropriate technical expertise.

38. A mix of UNICEF core roles will be applied to achieve programme results, with a particular emphasis on high-level advocacy (an independent voice for children), informed by solid evidence and supported by global, regional and in-country technical advice. Regional results networks will provide relevant examples of successful policy models, to inspire Albanian stakeholders to test similar innovations.

Summary budget table

	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
Programme component	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion	1 200	5 000	6 200
Protection and justice for children	1 600	5 000	6 600
Programme effectiveness	1 545	2 000	3 545
Total	**4 345**	**12 000**	**16 345**

Programme and risk management

39. The programme of cooperation with the Government of Albania will be implemented in line with the UNDAF and its established Delivering as One planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. At the same time, it will ensure compliance with UNICEF programme and operational policies and procedures, including HACT as one of the United Nations system's mechanisms for simplifying and reducing transaction costs.

40. The main risks in relation to the expected programme outcomes include low funds absorption caused by planning and implementation capacity constraints at central and local levels of government; possible turnover of key government staff around the periods of elections; and insufficient clarity, commitment and technical support for developing governance capacities in the newly formed municipalities. At

the same time, international development assistance may significantly decline, diverted to other regional or global priorities. To mitigate such risks, UNICEF will support leveraging resources for children, as well as related funding systems, mechanisms and operational standards, anchored to the agreed EU integration and national development priorities.

41. UNICEF and its partners will invest in decentralization reform and the transmission of responsibility for social services to local authorities.

42. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

Monitoring and evaluation

43. Progress towards planned results will be monitored using the indicators contained in the results and resources framework (see the annex), based on the UNDAF 2017-2021, the UNICEF Strategic Plan and programme management indicators.

44. UNICEF programme components have been developed using the approach of the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES), sharpening the focus on the most critical bottlenecks and barriers that are preventing children from realizing their rights, while enabling clear elaboration of results chains with appropriate monitoring indicators at all levels. Statistical and administrative data will be complemented by qualitative analyses, to offer a comprehensive picture of the country's progress and gaps in the implementation of the child rights and equity agenda.

45. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will contribute to developing the capacity of the National Institute of Statistics to ensure the country produces, analyses and disseminates high-quality data on children and adolescents, disaggregated by gender, age, ethnic group and disability status. All programme components include an element of strengthening national and local monitoring and reporting capacities in the context of the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

46. UNICEF will also contribute to expanding the availability of crucial child-outcome indicators through support for the conducting of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys. Research, studies and evaluations will be conducted to ascertain the effectiveness of programme interventions and enhance knowledge-generation practice as a corporate commitment. An overall country programme evaluation will assess the achievements of the previous country programme and inform the programme for 2017-2021.

47. To ensure that programme strategies remain relevant in an evolving context, programme reviews (midyear and annual, or as required) will be jointly organized with government and civil society stakeholders.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Albania — UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 37, 40 **National priorities:** Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17 2015-2020 National Strategy for Development and Integration 2014-2020 Strategy for Pre-University Education 2016-2020 Strategy for Social Protection 2016-2020 National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015-2019 National Policy Paper for Social Inclusion
UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF: *Outcome 1: Governance and Rule of Law* • Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14-1. Proportion of child-related valid complaints for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually *Outcome 2: Social cohesion: health, education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence* • Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births • Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 deliveries • Private household out-of-pocket expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure • Net school enrolment rates • Schoolchildren's learning outcomes • Percentage of low-income families and children with disabilities with access to adequate cash benefits • Rate of children in residential care (per 100,000 child population) • Number of national mechanisms collecting evidence on and addressing violence against children *Outcome 4: Environment and Climate Change* • Extent to which comprehensive measures are being implemented to achieve low-emission and/or climate-resilient development objectives
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2021, children in situations of particular vulnerability enjoy equitable access to quality health, education and social protection services supported by effective governance mechanisms.	Percentage of regions with equity-focused Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) quality improvement plans Baseline 2016: 8% Target: 100%	Ministry of Health (MoH) records	1.1. By 2021, health care policymakers and service providers are equipped with knowledge, guidance, tools and mechanisms to effectively scale up and implement the new MNCH normative framework, focused on the most marginalized 1.2. By 2021, education sector policymakers and practitioners at central and local levels are equipped with knowledge, guidance, tools and mechanisms to effectively implement and scale up the reformed, Early Learning and Development Standards-based and equity-sensitive, early learning education framework 1.3. By 2021, social protection policymakers and practitioners are equipped with knowledge, guidance, tools and mechanisms to effectively implement the reformed social protection policy (combining cash assistance with decentralized care services)	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), MoH, Ministry of Finance (MoF), Minister of Local Governance, civil society organizations (CSOs), municipalities, United Nations agencies	1 200	5 000	6 200
	Private households' out-of-pocket payment on health as % of total health expenditure Baseline 2014: 55% Target: 40%	World Bank measurements					
	Net school enrolment rates Baseline Pre-primary 2014 *Total: 81%* Girls: 80% Boys: 82% Roma: 55% Target Pre-primary *Total: 98%* Girls: 98% Boys: 98% Roma: 75%	MoES records; UNESCO Institute of Statistics calculations					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	<u>Baseline Primary 2013</u> ***Total: 96%*** **Girls: 95%** **Boys: 96%** **Roma: 61%** **<u>Target Primary</u>** ***Total: 100%*** **Girls: 100%** **Boys: 100%** **Roma: 80%**						
	Share of GDP allocated for education **<u>Baseline 2016</u>: 3.5%** **<u>Target</u>: 5.0%**	**MoF data**					
	Proportion of children covered by government cash transfer (pro-poor and disability allowance) programmes **<u>Baseline 2015:</u>** **Number of children: 161,278** **Percentage of total child population: 24%** **<u>Target</u>:** **Percentage of total child population: 40%**	**MoSWY and State Social Services (SSS) records**					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Coordination mechanisms for social protection are established and functional countrywide Baseline 2016: not established Target: established and functional						
By 2021, children's rights to justice and protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect are effectively supported by a comprehensive system of multisectoral prevention and response mechanisms	Rate of children (age 0-17) in residential (public and non-public) care per 100,000 child population Baseline 2015: 84 Target: 42 Rate of children with disabilities (age 0-17) in public institutions per 100,000 child population Baseline 2015: 7 Target: 3	MoSWY and SSS records	2.1. By 2021, social and child protection practitioners have increased capacity to assist families in situations of particular vulnerability/at risk of separation to provide care for their children, preventing institutionalization 2.2. By 2021, child protection practitioners are empowered with legal and normative frameworks, operational standards and tools to effectively prevent and address situations of child abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation	Parliament of Albania, MoSWY, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), MoES, MoH, Prosecutor's Office, CSOs, municipalities, United Nations agencies	1 600	5 000	6 600

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	Number of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children Baseline 2015: 4 (police, Child Protection Units (CPUs), schools, helpline) Target: at least 6 (police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform)	State Agency for Child Rights Protection annual reports	2.3. By 2021, justice sector policymakers, practitioners and independent human rights institutions have the capacity to fully align the Justice for Children normative framework to international standards and to effectively protect the rights of children in conflict and in contact with the law				
	Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14-17) Baseline 2014: 179 Target: 105	MoJ records					
	Out of all child-related valid complaints, proportion of complaints for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually Baseline 2014: 65% Target 2021: 5 percentage points increase, annually	People's Advocate Office records					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
The Government of Albania — UNICEF programme of cooperation is effectively designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality standards in achieving results for children.	Programme of cooperation is: (a) effectively designed; (b) coordinated; (c) managed; and (d) supported Baseline: Yes Target: Yes	Programme of cooperation	1. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively and efficiently design and manage the programme of cooperation are available to UNICEF and its partners. 2. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively generate, analyse, and utilize statistical and qualitative information for Child Rights Monitoring system are available in the country. 3. Guidance, tools and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders are available to UNICEF and its partners. 4. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied throughout the programme of cooperation.	All UNICEF partners in Albania	1 545	2 000	3 545
Total resources					**4 345**	**12 000**	**16 345**

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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
Second regular session 2016
14-16 September 2016
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Croatia

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for the Republic of Croatia is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD is funded by other resources only, and includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $13,420,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.

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Programme rationale

1. Croatia is a country with an advanced legal framework, positive practices and well-established expertise in several child rights areas — with a growing number of citizens motivated to contribute to the chid rights agenda — a vibrant civil society, solid academic institutions and an expanding corporate sector. Because of these factors, Croatia has a high potential to address the remaining child rights challenges and equity gaps in the country and to increase its contribution to the protection and realization of child rights abroad.

2. Since 2003, the Government of Croatia and UNICEF have been jointly engaged in developing an innovative model of partnership, which has resulted in a number of positive results for children in the country and in a steady increase of joint support to child rights agendas beyond Croatian borders. In addition to leveraging resources for children, this support included the transfer of know-how and best practices to other countries in areas such as peer-violence prevention, parenting support and de-institutionalization, among others.

3. Significant progress in a number of child rights areas in Croatia was noted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its 2014 Concluding Observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Croatia. While welcoming the achieved progress, the Committee also identified a number of areas that required improvement, and expressed concern about, inter alia, the situation of children in marginalized or disadvantaged situations.

4. In 2014, the Government of Croatia adopted a comprehensive National Strategy for Child Rights 2014-2020 (NSCR), defining core national priorities for the systemic advancement of child rights in Croatia. This Government of Croatia-UNICEF country partnership is fully aligned with the framework of NSCR and aims to contribute to the realization of its goals.

5. Since 2013, Croatia has been a member state of the European Union (EU). The global economic crisis contributed to the decline of its gross domestic product (GDP) and triggered a six-year long recession, from 2009 to 2014. This was reflected in the labour market, with increasing unemployment and insolvency rates, which translated into greater vulnerabilities for children in households with low work-intensity. Modest recovery from the recession started in 2015. However, the country is still facing high public debt, which reached a level of 86 per cent of GDP in 2015. Additional challenges include an aging population and declining birth rates. The crisis has had a negative impact on the well-being of children and widened equity gaps.

6. Poverty presents a significant risk for social exclusion and a range of psychosocial risks for children. Until 2011, the rate of children at risk of poverty was lower than the rate of risk of poverty for the total population. However, according to Eurostat data, in 2014 as many as 21.1 per cent of children in Croatia lived below the at-risk-of-poverty rate, while the corresponding rate for the total population was 19.4 per cent; nevertheless, an encouraging trend in the reduction of this rate for the general population as well as for children has been noted since 2012. Children who live in households with very low work-intensity, families with three or more dependent children, children from less populated areas and children living in single-parent families remain those most affected by poverty. In addition, children with disabilities (CWDs) and Roma children have been identified as those

with particular vulnerabilities. Social expenditures for children and families in Croatia remain below the EU average (1.5 per cent of GDP in Croatia as compared to 2.3 per cent of GDP in the EU on average).

7. Early childhood education (ECE) has been identified as one of the most important mechanisms for reducing equity gaps and mitigating the risk of child poverty. Access to ECE remains one of the key challenges in Croatia, particularly for the most vulnerable children. The average EU preschool participation rate stood at 93.9 per cent in 2013, whereas the Europe 2020 strategy aims at achieving a level of 95 per cent participation in ECE in all EU member states by the end of the decade. With the average preschool participation rate in 2014 at only 71.5 per cent for children between age 4 and the age of starting compulsory primary education, Croatia falls behind all other EU member states. Additionally, major geographic disparities are observed, with general preschool participation rates in some of the counties — such as Brod-Posavina County or Vukovar-Srijem County — remaining below an estimated 30 per cent. Also, there are significant challenges in access to ECE for several vulnerable groups of children, with Roma children's participation being as low as an estimated 38 per cent. A determinant analysis recently carried out revealed that progress in this area requires concerted efforts in knowledge-generation and communication for social change in order to influence existing beliefs, attitudes and practices related to ECE. Furthermore, equity-based policy dialogue and leveraging the increased and sustained investment in ECE will be crucial in this area.

8. Children with disabilities, as well as young children at risk of developmental delays and their families, continue to face challenges in the access to multisectoral early childhood intervention (ECI) services, a range of coordinated services supporting the development of children with disabilities and empowering their families. It is estimated that every year in Croatia some 4,000 children are born with the risk of developmental delays. However, recent Ministry of Social Policy and Youth data show that only 579 children accessed ECI services in 2014. Overcoming bottlenecks will require reinforcing intersectoral cooperation in this area and strengthening national and local capacities to plan and budget for modelling, as well as scaling up intersectoral, inclusive, community-based ECI services, in close partnership with parents and other caregivers.

9. Progress has been made towards securing the right of children to live in a supportive and caring family environment. The institutionalization of children without adequate parental care was reduced, with milestone legal provisions introduced in 2011, when the Act on Social Welfare prohibited the institutionalization of children under 7 years of age. Data from the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth show that the ratio of children without adequate parental care placed in social welfare institutions, compared to children placed in foster care, has improved (32 per cent for the former compared to 68 per cent for the latter, in 2014), and is on track to achieve the national goal of 20:80 by 2018. Still, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in its 2015 Concluding Observations on the initial report of Croatia, particular attention should be paid to the specific needs of children with disabilities, as well as to other groups of children overrepresented in institutions. Building on recent policies of the Government, additional strengthening of the capacities of the child protection system will be required to enable completing the shift from institutionalization of

vulnerable children towards provision of a continuum of services that effectively supports families and prevents family separation.

10. The number of reported cases of severe neglect of parental duties and rights, which grew by 28 per cent between 2012 and 2014, requires increased efforts in supporting families at risk of child separation, and other vulnerable families. This can be achieved by building on the results and lessons learned from the previous country partnership in Croatia, when major progress was made in knowledge-generation, capacity-building and influencing social norms and behaviours related to parenting. Further progress will require developing, introducing and scaling up successful models of parenting-support programmes based on the modern concept of positive parenting, especially to the benefit of the most vulnerable families.

11. Significant advancements were made in the area of child-friendly justice, with systemic improvements in the support provided to children victims and witnesses of crimes. There has been also a major increase in Croatia in the availability and quality of restorative and diversion measures for children in conflict with the law. The availability of out-of-court settlement for juvenile offenders was successfully expanded from 3 counties in 2011 to all 21 counties in 2015. Building on these results, there is a need to further increase the use of restorative and diversion measures, which show much higher rates of success in terms of non-reoffending rates, and which are currently used in only 13.9 percent of cases, according to the 2014 State Attorney's Office report. Additionally, supporting the access of vulnerable groups of children and their families to child rights institutions will be required. In order to overcome the remaining barriers and achieve further progress in this area, communication for social change strategies and further strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation and capacities among key stakeholders will be required.

12. Over the past two years, Croatia responded to two major emergency situations. In 2014 Croatia and the neighbouring countries were severely affected by floods. Since September 2015 the country has been making major efforts in responding to the large-scale refugee and migrant crisis in Europe, with over 650,000 persons having transited through the country by March 2016, more than one third of whom were children. In both crises, Croatian authorities and civil society generally demonstrated high levels of solidarity with the affected populations, and UNICEF provided support in meeting the needs and rights of children and women on the move. Based on the lessons learned from these experiences, particularly taking into account that Croatia is prone to several types of natural disasters, there is need to further strengthen national and local capacities, so as to encourage a child-sensitive and gender-sensitive approach in emergency preparedness and response, and to build the resilience of potentially affected populations.

13. Collection and analysis of disaggregated data that are consistent and representative of the situation of all children, especially those living in situations of vulnerability, remain a challenge. In that context, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Croatia to expeditiously improve its data collection system. The Committee further recommended evidence-based formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes. An important initial step in that direction was made through the efforts of the national working group for the establishment of national Child-Wellbeing Indicators, which has been active since mid-2015 under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, with UNICEF support. Further progress calls for strengthening the capacities of key data providers to

enhance data collection systems and to assure easy access to consistent data across sectors with the aim of reliable monitoring of progress for children.

14. Results achieved through the past and ongoing Government of Croatia-UNICEF partnerships have resonated with the public, motivating a growing number of individuals and corporate partners to engage in promoting positive change for children, in Croatia and abroad. By the end of 2015, over 42,000 citizens of Croatia were engaged with UNICEF as regular supporters, which is approximately 1 per cent of the overall population, a significant rise from 2011, when the number of supporters was 5,500. There is a potential for strengthening the links with supporters and broadening their engagement as agents of change for children in Croatia and abroad.

Programme priorities and partnerships

15. The midterm review (MTR) of the 2012-2016 country partnership confirmed the relevance of the broad alliance for children created in Croatia within the framework of the Government of Croatia-UNICEF partnership and the high level of recognition for the role of UNICEF as convener and mobilizer of various stakeholders around child rights issues. The MTR recommended that the partnership continue to contribute to the domestic child rights agenda and further increase support for horizontal cooperation between Croatia and other countries.

16. The overall goal of the 2017-2021 country partnership is to support Croatia to further advance its progress towards the sustained realization of children's rights in the country and to maximize the potential of Croatia to support the well-being of children beyond its borders. This will be achieved by fostering the stronger commitment, cooperation and contribution of the many stakeholders already engaged in supporting child rights. Promoting innovative partnerships and platforms for child rights, with a special focus on early childhood development (ECD) and child protection, will be critical to accelerating results for children.

17. With the aim of ensuring equal opportunities for all children, particular attention will be paid to the most vulnerable boys and girls and their families. These include children with disabilities and children at risk of developmental delays, children without adequate parental care, families at risk of child separation, children at risk of violence, abuse or neglect, children in contact with the justice system, Roma boys and girls, other children at risk of poverty and social exclusion, and children from rural and isolated areas, as well as children facing emergency situations.

18. The country partnership will directly contribute to several national priorities, particularly to the goals of the NSCR 2014-2020 and the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013-2020. It will also support Government-led efforts within the Europe 2020 strategy plans, particularly in the areas of education and the fight to end social exclusion. The partnership equally aspires to contributing to several priority areas identified in the draft National Strategy for Development Cooperation 2015-2020.

19. Joint efforts in the framework of this partnership will address several recommendations of the human rights bodies to Croatia, particularly those of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, in this partnership Croatia will contribute to the

realization of Sustainable Development Goals as well as to the four priority areas of the newly adopted Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021.

20. Major partners that are critical for achieving the outlined priorities include, but are not limited to: the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency, Ministry of Health, National Institute for Public Health, Ministry of Justice, Judicial Academy, Office of the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson for Children and Her Young Advisors, Ombudsperson for Persons with Disabilities, Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, Council for Children, regional and local governments, several faculties and research institutions, civil society organizations working on child rights issues, Croatian Red Cross Association, National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Croatian Bureau of Statistics, Croatian Employers' Association, Institute for Public Financing, corporate sector, media and individual supporters.

21. Key priorities for the country partnership will be addressed through three partnership components: early childhood development, child protection, and innovative partnerships and platforms for child rights, supported by the programme effectiveness component.

Early childhood development

22. This component will support equal opportunities for ECD for vulnerable children in Croatia, with special attention given to ECI and ECE subcomponents. It will focus on children at risk of poverty and social exclusion, children from isolated and rural areas, Roma children, children with disabilities and children at risk of developmental delays. This component will contribute to the achievement of the following outcome: by 2021, the Government of Croatia implements appropriately resourced inclusive ECE and multisectoral ECI policies at national and subnational levels, with a special focus on the most vulnerable children. This will be achieved mainly by facilitating national dialogue and strengthening national and local capacities in those areas, as well as by fostering dialogue and partnership with parents.

23. The ECE subcomponent will directly contribute to the realization of the NSCR goal that envisages the establishment of a network of preschool institutions to fully integrate, by 2020, all children in preschool education for at least two years before the transition to school. Direct contribution will be made also to the NSCR goal aiming at improving the education of Roma children. The ECI subcomponent directly contributes to the NSCR goal regarding the development of timely, comprehensive and accessible services of ECI for children with disabilities, and children at risk of developmental delays and their parents.

24. Alliances with stakeholders currently contributing, or with the potential to contribute, to securing sufficient and adequate ECE and ECI services in Croatia (including line ministries, academia, ombudspersons' offices, civil society organizations, contributors from the private sector and the media, among others) will be further expanded and strengthened to increase cooperation and maximize the contribution of each stakeholder to the set goals. Communication for social change will be used to increase public awareness, promote public dialogue and influence positive attitudes and beliefs related to this issue. Particular attention will be paid to

ECD of Roma girls in order to support their care and education and related outcomes.

25. The component will benefit from the good practices and innovative models of ECE and ECI developed in Croatia and abroad, and will foster knowledge-generation and knowledge-exchange in that respect. UNICEF will provide technical support in identifying, testing, documenting and validating specific models, as well as in facilitating in-country and beyond-border knowledge-sharing. The component will also address the need for sustained investment in ECD, including adequate levels of funding for expanding coverage of those services, through policy dialogue, evidence-generation, modelling, knowledge-exchange and technical support in the area of public funding for children.

26. Relevant authorities across the public sector will be supported to improve governance, accountability and monitoring systems for ECD services, which will further inform evidence-based policy development. Fostering cross-sectoral cooperation among health, social welfare and education sectors will be crucial, particularly to achieve progress in access to ECI. Comprehensive ECI services will contribute to the participation of children with disabilities in ECE and school.

Child protection

27. This component will focus on strengthening the child protection system in Croatia, emphasizing enhancing the capacity of the country to realize the rights of children to live free from violence, neglect, abuse, exploitation or social exclusion, to live in a caring and supportive family environment, to be adequately protected in emergencies, and to benefit from a child-friendly justice system. The component will build on past and ongoing efforts made by the Government of Croatia-UNICEF partnership and other stakeholders in this area, and it will contribute to the following outcome: by 2021, the Government of Croatia will implement an improved and equitable policy for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and exclusion of the most vulnerable children.

28. Building on the progress achieved over the past few years, this component strives to further contribute to ensuring a safe and stimulating environment for all children, particularly for those living with families at risk. This component will reduce the reliance on residential care through a progressive shift towards provision of a continuum of services that effectively prevents family separation. Complementing the ECD component above, this component will support the reduction in the placement of children with disabilities into residential care. Efforts will contribute to the NSCR goal aiming at ensuring the conditions for a safe and quality development of all children within a family environment. Modelling of parenting support programmes will continue, with a focus on families at risk. A gender-sensitive approach will engage mothers and fathers equally. After validation, successful parenting-support models will be promoted abroad through horizontal cooperation, within the framework of the third component of this country partnership.

29. In the area of justice for children, the partnership will build on the recent successes and lessons learned through working with justice system professionals who are dealing with children victims and witnesses at criminal courts. This component will extend the scope of technical support to include civil and misdemeanour proceedings to better steward children's contact with the justice system. The capacities of the justice system to identify and address potential gender

biases in justice-related practices and procedures will be further strengthened. Furthermore, technical support aiming at a wider use of alternative sanctions for children and youth in conflict with the law will be made available. Through public advocacy and communication for social change, societal beliefs preferring punitive measures for children in conflict with the law will be addressed. Cross-sectoral cooperation and adequate support to families of children and youth in conflict with the law will be crucial for achieving results. The scope of partnership in this area will be extended through provision of a platform through which the most vulnerable children may strengthen their access to child rights institutions, in cooperation with Ombudsperson for Children and other key actors.

30. As a follow-up to the recommendation of the MTR, and also based on the lessons learned from the response to two emergency situations, in 2014 (floods) and 2015 (children on the move), the country partnership will strengthen the capacities in Croatia to prepare for and provide adequate child-sensitive and gender-sensitive response to the needs of children in crisis situations. This will be achieved through policy dialogue and the provision of technical support at national and subnational levels. Additionally, in the case of a large-scale crisis affecting Croatia, UNICEF will remain available to support Croatia through its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Furthermore, the partnership will focus on leveraging resources for children affected by emergencies globally.

Innovative partnerships and platforms for child rights

31. This component aims at maximizing the potential of Croatia to support and promote children's rights domestically, regionally and globally. This will be achieved by mobilizing innovative and sustainable child rights platforms through creating and maintaining well-structured forms of cooperation on specific child rights issues. These will enable the stronger commitment, cooperation and contribution of various stakeholders and it will accelerate equity-focused results for children, domestically and beyond. UNICEF will take on the role of convener and promotor of these platforms, encouraging the participation of children.

32. Croatia has developed a number of good practices and advanced policies in several child rights areas, such as in peer-violence prevention, parenting support, and de-institutionalization, among others. In the framework of Croatian efforts to support child well-being in other countries, as well as to facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries, a platform for sharing validated good practices will be established in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. It is expected that by 2021 at least 10 countries will benefit from this sharing of good practices between Croatia and other countries.

33. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children is one of the key child rights monitoring mechanisms in Croatia, used by a significant number of children and families facing challenges in the realization of their rights. Building on the lessons learned and the identified needs and opportunities, cooperation with this institution will be further strengthened in two ways: through awareness-raising on the work of this institution among the most vulnerable groups of children in Croatia, aiming at supporting their access to justice, and through international promotion of this institution in the framework of horizontal cooperation.

34. The corporate sector in Croatia is increasingly motivated to promote corporate social responsibility and contribute to advancing child rights in an integrated

manner. Strategic partnerships with the corporate sector will mobilize the economic influence of the private sector as well as its advocacy potential, maximizing the sector's contribution to child rights in Croatia and abroad. One of the key partners in this platform will be the Croatian Association of Employers, which is also a lead association of the UN Global Compact initiative in Croatia.

35. By end-2015, over 42,000 individual supporters were contributing to the realization of the goals set in the Government of Croatia-UNICEF partnership. Additional opportunities will be seized for enhanced engagement of existing and new supporters, with efforts guided by the results of a recent survey. Particular attention will be paid to the engagement of youth as agents of change, through a combination of child rights education and the promotion of solidarity among and with youth.

36. Building on recent progress in the establishment of new national child well-being indicators, this component will reinforce the platform established for that purpose. It will continue the joint efforts being made for strengthening the data collection system supporting evidence-based policies and practices, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Through this platform, the country partnership will provide support to the capacity development of relevant providers of data and the technical assistance needed to introduce improvements within the administrative system for statistical data collection, aiming to foster and strengthen cross-sectoral alignment of data collection. In addition to methodological adjustments, this will also bring about increased quality assurance, better-established plans for data usage and dissemination, and more clearly defined roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

Programme effectiveness

37. This component will support the activities related to programme implementation, including technical and strategic assistance. It covers the costs of cross-cutting positions such as programme performance-monitoring and communications.

Summary budget table

	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
Programme component	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Early childhood development	0	4 820	4 820
Child protection	0	4 100	4 100
Innovative partnerships and platforms for child rights	0	2 600	2 600
Programme effectiveness	0	1 900	1 900
Total	**0**	**13 420**	**13 420**

Programme and risk management

38. This CPD outlines the broad contributions of UNICEF to the national and international results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at

country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and global levels with respect to the country partnership are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

39. The UNICEF country management team will coordinate the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the country partnership and the compliance with the United Nations Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). Workplans will be developed together with government partners to operationalize the partnership and will be monitored through periodic reviews.

40. The main risks that could hamper the achievement of expected results pertain to the financial and economic environment. Reducing public expenditures related to children and families might occur in the framework of potential austerity measures. This risk will be mitigated through joint risk-informed planning, enhanced cross-sectoral cooperation, knowledge-generation and technical support aimed at increasing the availability and effectiveness of resources invested in children and families, among other areas. It will also be mitigated through provision of technical support for seizing opportunities to benefit from EU and other funds, and through enhanced monitoring of the impact of investments on the most vulnerable children and families. Furthermore, through innovative platforms, the investment of the private sector in the rights of the most vulnerable children and families will be increased.

Monitoring and evaluation

41. In the realization of this country partnership, UNICEF will continue to operate under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Progress made towards the established goals of the country partnership will be closely monitored through joint annual meetings of all key partners, which will serve as a platform for joint planning, assessment and eventual adjustments in the country partnership.

42. The partnership will support national efforts to strengthen child rights monitoring mechanisms and implement data collection methodologies that will provide reliable and comparable disaggregated data on children, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups, and will enable identification of existing equity gaps.

43. Critical gaps in data and information will be overcome by the conducting of a comprehensive child rights situation analysis and a national gender-issues review, as well as several evaluations and UNICEF-supported surveys and studies, focusing particularly on vulnerable groups of children. These efforts will further enable monitoring the progress made towards set goals and promote Croatian good practices abroad.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Government of Croatia-UNICEF country partnership 2017-2021

Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 36, 37, 39, 40

National priorities:

Sustainable Development Goals
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) priority areas
1. Equal opportunities for all children
2. Participation of all children
3. A life free from violence for all children
4. Child-friendly justice for all children

National Strategy for the Rights of Children (2014-2020) national goals
1. Provision of child-friendly services and systems
2. Eliminating all forms of violence against children
3. Ensuring the rights of children in vulnerable situations
4. Ensuring the active participation of children

UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF: *not applicable*
Outcome indicators measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution: *not applicable*

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: (from the Strategic Plan 2014-2017)
1. (Health): Improved and equitable use of high-impact maternal and child health interventions, from pregnancy to adolescence, and promotion of healthy behaviours
5. (Education): Improved learning outcomes and equitable and inclusive education
6. (Child protection): Improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children
7. (Social inclusion): Improved policy environment and systems for disadvantaged and excluded children, guided by improved knowledge and data

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
Outcome 1: By 2021 the Government implements appropriately resourced inclusive early childhood education (ECE) and multisectoral early childhood intervention (ECI) policies at national and subnational levels, with special focus on the most vulnerable children	Attendance rate in ECE (total and disaggregated by sex) Baseline: (a) Total: 71.5% (2014) of the children in the 4-6 age group who participate in ECE Male – 71.5% (2014) Female – 71.5% (2014) (b) Total: 38% (2014) of Roma children who participate in ECE Male – 38% Female – 38% Target: (a) Total: 94% (2021) of the children in the 4-6 age group who participate in ECE Male – 94% (2021) Female – 94% (2021) (b) Total: 70% (2021) of Roma children who participate in ECE Male – 70% (2021) Female – 70% (2021)	Eurostat data on children's participation in ECE as a percentage of the corresponding age group Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MSES) reports on Roma children involved in ECE; estimation of cohorts based on MSES reports on school-age children	Models of inclusive ECE services (equal accessibility and quality education) as well as integrated ECI policies (timely multidisciplinary and multisector intervention) are identified established, tested, documented and validated National and local authorities have evidence, best practices and technical advice on driving legislation, improving financial resourcing and implementing the inclusive ECE and integrated ECI policies for the most vulnerable children National capacities are strengthened to promote and support inclusive ECE and integrated ECI policies for the most vulnerable children	MSES, Ministry of Health, MSPY, Ombudsperson for Children, Ombudsperson for Persons with Disabilities, Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, members of Parliament, regional and local self-government; Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency, University of Zagreb Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Croatian National Institute for Public Health, parents' associations, national and local civil society organizations (CSOs), national TV and other media	0	4 820	4 820
	Number of ECI beneficiaries Baseline: 579 (2014) Target: at least 1,200 (2021)	Ministry of Social Politics and Youth (MSPY) annual reports on provided ECI services					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership framework*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Outcome 2: By 2021 the Government implements improved and equitable policy for prevention and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and exclusion of the most vulnerable children	Percentage of alternative sanctions (special obligations, reprimand excluded) out of all sanctions imposed on juvenile offenders in misdemeanour proceedings Baseline: 11.8% (624 in 2014) Target: 30% in 2021	Statistical Yearbook 2015 and Ministry of Justice administrative reports	All relevant stakeholders have evidence and technical advice on driving legislation and budgeting for child protection Professionals involved in child protection and justice have strengthened capacities for effective implementation and monitoring of child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice Social welfare, education and health professionals have enhanced capacities for provision of inclusive family and community-based services for the most vulnerable children, including children affected by emergency situations. Parent-support programmes reach particularly vulnerable families	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, MSPY, Ministry of the Interior, Municipal and county courts; Office for Human Rights, Offices of Ombudspersons, Faculty of Law of the Department for Social Work Judicial Academy, University of Zagreb Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Croatian Red Cross Association, National protection and rescue directorate, Centres for Social Work, foster care associations, and other national and local CSOs	0	4 100	4 100
	Number of prosecutors' offices and municipal courts applying child- friendly procedures Baseline: TBD in 2017 Target: TBD in 2017	Ministry of Justice administrative reports and UNICEF country office annual reports					
	Percentage of children and youth deprived of parental care who are in foster care, out of all children in formal care Baseline: TBD in 2017 Target: TBD in 2017	MSPY					
	Children (ages 0-17) living in institutions (total and disaggregated by sex) Baseline: TBD in 2017 Target: TBD in 2017	MSPY administrative reports on children and youth in public care					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
Outcome 3: By 2021, innovative partnerships and child rights platforms enable the increased commitment, cooperation and contribution of various stakeholders to the protection and realization of child rights in Croatia and beyond its borders	Number of countries that incorporate good Croatian practices and models Baseline: 2 in 2015 Target: At least 10 in 2021	Government of Croatia reports and UNICEF country office annual reports	Sustainable platforms for the exchange of knowledge and best practices between Croatia and other countries are established Public and private (corporate and individual) sectors are supported to increase their engagement and investment in the protection and realization of child rights in Croatia and abroad National capacities are strengthened for developing evidence-based policies and for effectively monitoring their implementation Children, especially those from vulnerable groups, are supported to access child rights institutions	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatian Employers' Association, Council for Children, Offices of Ombudspersons, Institute for Public Finances, Croatian Bureau of Statistics, Croatian Chamber of Commerce	0	2 600	2 600
	Number of individuals supporting the realization of goals defined in the Government of Croatia – UNICEF country partnership Baseline: 42,000 in 2015 Target: 49,000 by 2021	UNICEF country office annual reports					
	Effectiveness of national child rights monitoring framework Baseline: Partial Committee on the Rights of the Child 2014 Concluding Observations (CRC/C/HRV/CO/3-4, September 2014) Target: Progress noted by Committee on the Rights of the Child in comparison to the September 2014 Committee review	Committee's Concluding Observations regarding national child rights monitoring framework					
	Number of queries brought to Office of the Ombudsperson for Children by children or their representatives Baseline: 1,456 queries in 2015 Target: At least 1,800 queries annually by 2021	Ombudsperson for Children annual reports					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Outcome 4: The Government of Croatia–UNICEF country partnership meets quality standards in achieving results for children	The country partnership is: (a) effectively designed; (b) coordinated; (c) managed, and (d) supported Baseline: yes Target: yes	Country partnership	Guidance, tools and resources to effectively and efficiently design and manage the programme of cooperation are available to UNICEF and its partners. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively generate, analyse, and utilize statistical and qualitative information for Child Rights Monitoring system are available in the country. Guidance, tools and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders are available to UNICEF and its partners. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied throughout the programme of cooperation	All UNICEF partners in Croatia	0	1 900	1 900
Total resources					**0**	**13 420**	**13 420**

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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Montenegro

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Montenegro is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,270,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $7,339,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.

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Programme rationale

1. Montenegro has an upper-middle-income economy and is a candidate for accession to the European Union (EU), a process that is a national priority and a major driver of reforms for human rights and children. Much of the country's legislative framework is now aligned with international human rights instruments. Further efforts are required to translate these reforms into working instruments to benefit equally all children, particularly those affected by poverty, adversity[1] and exclusion.

2. Like those of most countries of Europe, the economy of Montenegro is facing challenges: the yearly growth of its gross domestic product decreased from 3.3 per cent in 2013 to 1.8 per cent in 2014,[2] unemployment has remained high at 18 per cent, disproportionately affecting those under 24 years old (36 per cent), and the poverty rate is 7.5 per cent, but affects more than 10 per cent of children.

3. While recent public sector reforms aim to reduce the informal economy, further efforts are needed to promote social inclusion and address poverty. The Government has recognized the need to strengthen the national system for the realization of child rights and related accountability mechanisms, and to improve public sector performance, professional culture and intersectoral collaboration, in the best interests of all children.

4. An analysis of key determinants revealed specific bottlenecks to implementing reforms pertaining to children's rights. These include: persistent capacity gaps in the public sector systems, as well as the need for greater awareness of children's rights .There is also a pressing need for continuous harmonizing of the policy environment with global knowledge and science on child development.

5. Systems and capacities need further development to promote implementation, enforcement and follow-through of laws and policies, intersectoral and local/national collaboration, the generation and use of quality, disaggregated, child- and gender-focused data and statistics, and minimum standards and engagement of civil society and other citizens.

6. The family is a core unit of Montenegrin society, perceived as being primarily responsible for ensuring a protective environment and for the upbringing and socialization of children. Yet children are not widely recognized as rights-holders. Traditional family roles help to guarantee the stability of the Montenegrin family; however, those very roles in some instances perpetuate gender inequality, and sometimes violence, affecting children and their families.[3]

7. Every third person in Montenegro knows a child who is affected by school violence. According to the 2013 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 31 per cent of children aged 1-14 years were subjected to physical punishment, and 2 per cent to severe physical

[1] The term 'adversity' relates to the concept of adverse childhood experiences – such as abuse, neglect, domestic violence and parental separation, substance use, mental illness or incarceration.
[2] Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT), 2015.
[3] Government of Montenegro and UNICEF, 2014 Midterm Review (MTR) of the Country Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016.

punishment.[4] The public taboo against discussing child neglect, sexual abuse and violence is strong, but is gradually opening up.

8. Young people in Montenegro must be better recognized as a resource to be invested in, and prioritized on the public policy agenda.[5] Mechanisms for consultation with youth are underdeveloped, although there have been various attempts to establish tools for dialogue with youth and adolescents at all levels of governance.

9. Child poverty disproportionally affects children living in rural areas and children in the north, where over three quarters and more than half, respectively, of poor children live. The poorest children are the least connected and most distant from health services and least likely to benefit from education.[6] From the poorest quintile, 7 per cent of children attend early childhood education (ECE) and 82 per cent attend secondary school, compared to 66 per cent and 98 per cent, respectively, from the wealthiest quintile.[7]

10. The ECE enrolment rate of children aged 3–6 is 53 per cent and characterized by significant regional inequity, ranging from 94 per cent in a municipality in the wealthier south to 10 per cent in a municipality in the poorer north.[8] Key determinants of low enrolment in areas affected by poverty are limited demand and lack of awareness of the benefits of early childhood development (ECD), absence of services, poverty and geographical distance to kindergartens.

11. The rights of children with disabilities are being progressively realized: there has been a five-fold increase in the number of children with disabilities entering mainstream education since 2009 and a significant expansion of day-care centres for them, from 1 in 2009 to 10 in 2016, with more progress on the way. These changes have been supported by an ongoing drive to promote more inclusive public attitudes towards children with disabilities. This has resulted in impressive improvements in public perceptions: the number of people opposed to inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education had dropped from 64 per cent in 2010 to 20 per cent by 2014, and the number of children with disabilities placed in institutional care had dropped by 28 per cent. Quality of education, early intervention, assessments, referrals, local services and data-gathering on childhood disability need to be further strengthened to accelerate universal inclusion in society and enable children with disabilities to realize their full potential.

12. Deep reform of the social welfare and childcare systems has yielded a legal framework restricting placement of children in institutions and prohibiting placement of children under 3 in institutional care. The reform introduced, inter alia, an integrated information system, strengthened institutional and administrative social-work capacities and the establishment of the Institute for Social and Child Protection, charged with directing policy and overseeing performance, case management and preventative services and care options as alternatives to institutionalization.

13. These reforms have led to a 44 per cent reduction in the number of children in institutional care overall, 82 per cent for children under 3, and a five-fold increase in the number of non-kin foster families in the 2010-2015 period. However, a significant number

[4] MONSTAT and UNICEF, 2013 MICS, published in 2014.
[5] International Organization for Migration, 2011 research on youth participation.
[6] UNICEF, *Child Poverty in Montenegro*, 2012.
[7] MONSTAT and UNICEF, 2013 MICS, 2014.
[8] UNICEF, *A Study on Investment in Early Childhood Education in Montenegro*, 2014.

of children still remain in care, with children with disabilities comprising 60 per cent of children in institutions.[9]

14. Roma girls and boys, a significant proportion of whom are also displaced from neighbouring Kosovo (referenced in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)), fare much worse than other children in almost every social and well-being indicator, including that pertaining to violence, and they are the most affected by child marriage and childbearing at an early age. The primary school attendance rate for Roma children is as low as 58 per cent, compared to 95 per cent overall.[10] Secondary school attendance is even lower for Roma: 7 per cent for boys and 4 per cent for girls. Data point to an alarmingly high dropout rate: less than a third of Roma children of primary school-completion age actually complete the last grade of primary school, which is compulsory (30 per cent of Roma boys and 29 per cent of Roma girls). Key determinants are stigma, discrimination, poverty and social and cultural barriers within this minority group.

15. Juvenile justice has undergone a significant transformation with the successful introduction of diversionary justice options and non-custodial sentencing. The comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system can serve as a model for that of other sectors, and beyond the country's borders. A 2015 study[11] on juvenile justice suggested that children run into barriers concerning awareness and information, and encounter a variety of legal, practical, social and cultural obstacles on their path to justice. These obstacles are exacerbated by vulnerabilities such as poverty, disability or ethnicity, and are influenced strongly by social and cultural norms, including gender discrimination.

Programme priorities and partnerships

16. The country programme of cooperation will contribute to enhancing equitable systems for the progressive realization of the rights of children in Montenegro, with special focus on children affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion.

17. The programme will achieve these goals through accompanying government reforms and further developing the most-needed capacities, and by shifting social norms and shared societal expectations towards the realization of child rights. It will enable linking the Montenegro policy environment with global knowledge and science on child development. Strategies will focus on advocacy, policy advice and capacity development.

18. The country programme will build on the results of the previous cooperation that simultaneously strengthened national knowledge, know-how and discourse on child rights while supporting systemic health, education, child/social protection and justice reforms. This combined approach enabled duty-bearers and rights-holders to further promote and protect children's rights, particularly in relation to ECD, adverse childhood experiences, disability, education and child protection.

19. Another positive lesson from the previous cooperation is that the strategic use of social change communication that measures public attitudes, delivers targeted messages through multiple public platforms and measures results in terms of attitudinal changes, have been successful in strengthening demand and creating an enabling environment for

[9] Government of Montenegro and UNICEF, 2014 MTR.
[10] MONSTAT and UNICEF, 2013 MICS, 2014.
[11] UNICEF regional office, Study on Children's Equitable Access to Justice, 2015.

government reforms on disability inclusion, promoting foster care and expanding ECE enrolment.

20. The country programme will focus on addressing persistent bottlenecks in achieving child rights, promoting child-friendly social norms and overcoming stereotypes, as well as developing a stronger human rights culture. The cooperation will support national independent child rights bodies in improving oversight, coordination and monitoring, and promote an agile public administration that rewards change and results. Behavioural science will be harnessed to model and test innovations that aim to improve public sector performance, accountability and service delivery.

21. The programme will foster system changes that are rooted in an integrated, holistic, evidence-based, as well as result-oriented and multisectoral approach, focusing on specific areas affecting results for children: health, childcare, social protection, education, justice, and finance. Particular attention will be given to strengthening institutional capacity in terms of long-term strategic planning, evidence-based policymaking and child-focused budgeting. This will in turn lead to more boys and girls benefiting from quality, equitable, and inclusive services, and living in supportive family environments, better protected from adversity, exclusion and poverty.

22. The programme will aim to enhance the capabilities of existing monitoring and information systems, working towards a more structured and coordinated child rights monitoring system capable of capturing disaggregated quality data on particular issues related to children affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion.

23. The programme will aim to strengthen a culture of demand, informed by improved public knowledge. The programme will accomplish this through public advocacy efforts and communication for social change strategies that promote ECD, a reduction of violence against children, adolescent development, and Roma education. As a result, boys, girls and their parents will be empowered to seek higher-quality services. In addition, efforts will promote the evolution of positive social norms on relevant child and adolescent development issues and tackle both stigma against excluded groups and gender stereotypes. UNICEF will pay particular attention to supporting ECD interventions and mitigating the impact of childhood adversity in order to generate a greater understanding of the importance of both aspects on educational outcomes, productivity, employability and economic growth in the long run.

24. The programme will build on the results of the previous country programme cycle to address key bottlenecks and barriers to equity. This will be done through the sharing of technical expertise and advice on the development of investment cases or alternative financing models, on intersectoral cooperation, and on effective child rights monitoring that will enable improved policy implementation. To enhance the coverage and quality of social services, efforts will be made to develop and model programmes and services and to strengthen the awareness and accountability of service providers, with a focus on reaching excluded children. This will be achieved through strengthening management for results in the public sector and performance assessment mechanisms. At the same time, efforts will help excluded families to become more aware of their rights and entitlements and to demand their realization.

25. Concerted efforts will be made to create sustainable demand for, and facilitated access to, global knowledge and science on child development and human rights among partners in government, civil society, academia and the media. This will result, for example, in strengthening the network of non-governmental organizations capable of systematically

monitoring child rights, and discussing emerging issues, such as adverse childhood experiences. Among the areas emphasized will be early childhood through to adolescent development, neuroscience, psychology and behavioural science, "design thinking" and social entrepreneurship for youth empowerment, as well as alternative financing for social sector reform. This will also enable Montenegro to develop best practices to be validated internationally and shared beyond borders

26. Gender disparities will be addressed through mainstreaming interventions in all programme components and by identifying specific gender-related results. The programme will support greater availability of data disaggregated by geographical area, sex, age, disability and wealth quintiles, whenever possible. Progress will be continuously monitored to ensure that sufficient attention, resources and partnerships are generated to remove persistent barriers to equity and gender equality.

27. UNICEF in Montenegro works within the United Nations Delivering as One framework. The country programme will directly contribute to three of the four Outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Montenegro, linked to relevant UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes and contributing to key Sustainable Development Goals. The priorities identified in this cooperation derive from national priorities, government strategies and plans, and EU accession priorities, as well as from the obligations of Montenegro under human rights treaties and conventions it has signed or ratified.

28. The country programme will be implemented through close partnerships with relevant ministries and State bodies, as well as with other United Nations agencies, fostering intersectoral and inter-agency collaboration. Continued cooperation with the EU will emphasize joint support for policy development and implementation and for the prioritization of child rights within the EU accession process.

Social and child protection

29. This programme component aims to strengthen public systems to protect boys and girls from the impact of poverty, adversity and exclusion and to provide them with more opportunities to live in a supportive family environment and in inclusive communities, free from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect, including in situations of humanitarian crisis. This will contribute to excluded children gaining better access to quality, equitable, inclusive and mutually reinforcing health, social and child protection services.

30. The programme component will support the Government and other key partners in creating a supportive environment for the protection of children from violence, abuse and neglect, improving the relevance and quality of an integrated package of social support through care services and social cash transfers aiming at reducing child poverty and strengthening demand for services and programmes. UNICEF will provide technical assistance for the full alignment of relevant policies and legislation with international standards, the development of more accessible and adequately financed social services, evidence-based policymaking, and the promotion of changes in social norms and public sector organizational culture and practice to make them more conducive to the protection and realization of child rights.

31. This component will facilitate the development of needs-based and holistic services for children and families. The focus will be on the prevention of, and protection from, violence, adversity and exploitation of children and women, as well as on preventing family separation. A specific focus will be on Roma communities, given the high prevalence of

early childbearing and child marriages in Roma communities, as indicated by the MICS 2013. UNICEF will contribute specifically through technically supporting models of integrated and intersectoral responses that will enable families to better care for children with disabilities. These models will make family-based care services for children deprived of parental care more widely available, and provide culturally appropriate and relevant outreach services for Roma families and children.

32. This component will also contribute to enhancing the capacity of the social and child protection system for oversight, planning, provision and coordination of child protection services. UNICEF will focus on supporting stronger collaboration among social work, education, justice and health sectors in order to develop family-centred social services, which will include family outreach, home visitation, community-based services, better parenting support, and cross-sectoral early detection and intervention for children with disabilities. A special emphasis will be placed on promoting innovations to achieve Roma inclusion.

Quality education and adolescent empowerment

33. This programme component will help boys and girls, particularly those affected by poverty, exclusion and adversity, to enjoy their right to quality and inclusive education, starting from an early age through their second decade, and to utilize opportunities for acquiring the knowledge, skills and competences necessary to thrive as adults. It will contribute to diversifying educational services, and increasing their quality, so that all boys and girls can benefit from a quality education system.

34. The capacity development of key partners at central and local levels will be supported, in particular of the Ministry of Education, Bureau for Education, and preschool institutions at local level. UNICEF will facilitate the development of models of innovative financing and services of ECE in order to increase the number of municipalities that deliver alternative programmes of ECE.

35. Advocacy and communication for social change will emphasize the importance of ECE. Programme efforts will contribute to increasing the awareness of parents about the crucial benefits of early child development and education. The expected result is an increase in enrolment of children in ECE programmes.

36. The programme component will support reform of preschool, primary school and secondary school systems. The aim is to promote inclusive quality education that takes a more holistic approach to child and adolescent development, including through the development of non-cognitive, social and emotional skills. The programme will support improved data collection and its use for evidence-based policymaking and governance of preschool, primary and secondary schools (e.g., the prevention of dropout, including among girls).

37. The component will contribute to increased capacity of local and national institutions to develop adolescent-led/-focused innovation initiatives, enabling participation, employability, entrepreneurship, life skills and collaborative problem-solving through the newly established Youth Innovation Lab, which will primarily engage youth affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion. Support will be given to establishment of policies and services for youth participation and empowerment. The aim is to increase the reach and quality of youth services; ensure that adolescents are perceived as a valued resource; and strengthen the capacity of service providers, including in the use of emerging global knowledge on adolescent brain development.

Child rights monitoring and access to justice

38. This programme component will contribute to strengthening systems to monitor progress and trends in how girls and boys progressively realize their rights in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international child rights instruments. The component will also aim to improve equitable access to justice for children when their rights are violated or entitlements are denied. In support of these ends, girls and boys will be enabled to utilize well-governed and accountable child rights coordination and monitoring systems in the country.

39. The component will support the Government of Montenegro — particularly the Council of Child Rights, Parliament, and Ombudsperson's Office — and civil society organizations, the media and academia, to advance and effectively monitor the realization of child rights.

40. Efforts will go towards strengthening intersectoral collaboration, partnership, leadership and the management capacity of key government partners. Particular attention will be given to strengthening the capacity of key public sector partners in evidence-based programming and policymaking and to further developing the national independent child rights monitoring mechanisms in order to track progress and document and share lessons learned.

41. The justice system will be supported to provide equitable access to justice for all children who participate in justice proceedings, so that children will be able to benefit from effective legal protection and continuous monitoring of child rights violations.

42. Efforts will facilitate the introduction of child-friendly procedures in the overall justice system (criminal, civil and administrative proceedings). A key aim is to empower children affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion, and their families, to effectively access justice and meaningfully participate in judicial and administrative proceedings.

43. Children, adults and professionals in relevant sectors will have access to information platforms and tools so that they gain greater awareness and understanding of children as rights-holders and of existing mechanisms for realizing child rights, with special focus on children belonging to minority groups and children with disabilities.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Social and child protection	1 264	3 150	4 414
Quality education and adolescent empowerment	1 208	2 920	4 128
Child rights monitoring and access to justice	653	1 269	1 922
Programme effectiveness	1 145	0	1 145
Total	**4 270**	**7 339**	**11 609**

Programme and risk management

44. This CPD outlines the UNICEF contribution to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability towards the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. The accountability of managers at the country, regional and headquarters level, with respect to country programmes, are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

45. The United Nations Country Team has agreed to adopt the Standard Operating Procedures of the Delivering as One approach that are relevant to the Montenegrin context and to United Nations roles in the country, and will establish the relevant mechanisms in order to coordinate UNDAF planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

46. The key risks relate to potential natural disasters and modalities for resource mobilization in a shrinking donor environment due to Montenegro gradually moving towards being a high-income country. The country office will regularly monitor actions targeted to manage significant risks and assess/update the risk assessment for emerging risks. Both significant risks and relevant actions plans will be included in the annual office management plan and will be periodically monitored and updated.

47. As mitigating measures, UNICEF and its partners will ensure that disaster risks are assessed, monitored regularly and fed into effective early warning and response mechanisms. With respect to partnerships, both fund transfers and activity implementation are regularly monitored through the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers.

Monitoring and evaluation

48. The programme will focus on monitoring barriers and bottlenecks faced by the most excluded children. UNICEF will provide high-level technical advice to key partners, including the statistical office, line ministries and relevant research institutes, to enable better data collection and management systems and to extend the range of disaggregated data routinely available. Particular efforts will be made in encouraging more regular use of data and reporting on the status of children by the Government, independent institutions and civil society.

49. The UNDAF Strategic Results Matrix will serve as the overall framework for monitoring UNDAF Outcomes. UNICEF will collaborate with other United Nations agencies to support national data-collection systems and management capacities and tools in order to improve the quality of data and monitoring, with particular focus on supporting the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments

50. Baselines for programme results and the Theory of Change that underpins them are based on the 2013 MICS, the special MICS for Roma Settlements, the findings of the 2014 Midterm Review, as well as other sources. Additional knowledge-generation will cover data gaps related to new areas emerging from the implementation of the programme. Major planned evaluations will cover key programme components, and will be conducted jointly with the Government and concerned partners. The programme will systematically track progress against planned results through midyear and annual reviews. The findings of the 2014–2015 independent regional multi-country evaluations and the respective management responses will inform programming and policymaking and contribute to cooperation among countries in the region.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Montenegro–UNICEF country programme of cooperation 2017–2021

Relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 37, 39, 40 **National priorities (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals or other internationally recognized goals):** - European Union (EU) integration: Copenhagen criteria (Political), Information Society and Media (10), Statistics (18), Social Policy and Employment (19), Judiciary and Fundamental Rights (23), Justice Freedom, and Security (24), Consumer and Health Protection (28), Environment (27) and Education and Culture (26). - Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17
UNDAF Outcome involving UNICEF Outcome 1: By 2021, the population has improved access to quality, equitable, inclusive and mutually reinforcing systems of health, education, protection and decent work Outcome indicator measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution • No. of people accessing: (a) standardized family and community services and cash transfers; (b) De-institutionalization; (c) Transfer accuracy targeting • No. of cases of domestic violence against women and violence against children registered (as a measure of the responsiveness of the system). **UNDAF Outcome involving UNICEF Outcome 2:** By 2021, the population has improved access to quality, equitable, inclusive and mutually reinforcing systems of health, education, protection and decent work By 2021, the people of Montenegro are benefitting from an enabling institutional and regulatory framework for sustainable and inclusive economic growth based on innovation, entrepreneurship and competitiveness Outcome indicator measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution • Early childhood education (ECE) enrolment rate (3–6 years) • Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) score • Youth unemployment rate (15–24 years) • Global Innovation Index **UNDAF Outcome involving UNICEF Outcome 3:** By 2021, people-centred, accountable, transparent and effective judiciary, Parliament, public administration and independent institutions ensure security, equal access to justice and quality services to all people Outcome indicator measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution • Percentage of Universal Periodic Review (UPR)-accepted recommendations for Montenegro fully implemented or in the process of implementation as per UPR cycle

• Level of preparedness of Montenegro to apply the Accession and EU standards in the areas covered by Negotiation Chapters 23 and 24 • Percentage of specialized professionals who apply child-friendly justice proceedings in working with children Percentage of Sustainable Development Goals nationalized
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: Outcome 1 (Health): Improved and equitable use of high-impact maternal and child health interventions, from pregnancy to adolescence, and promotion of healthy behaviours. Outcome 5 (Education): Improved and equitable access to and completion of quality, inclusive education with a focus on improving learning outcomes. Outcome 6 (Child protection): Improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children. Outcome 7 (Social inclusion): Improved policy environment and systems for disadvantaged and excluded children, guided by improved knowledge and data.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Girls, boys and caregivers, especially those affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion, progressively utilize quality, equitable, mutually reinforcing systems of health and social and child protection, including in situations of humanitarian crisis, by 2021.	Share of new children admitted to the National Institution for Children without parental care out of all children already residing in that institution, per year, disaggregated by sex and age Baseline (2015): 25% (58% boys and 42% girls), 21% aged under 3 and 79% aged 3 or above Target (2021): 13%; 0% aged under 3 Boys and girls utilizing standardized family and community services per 100,000 child population, with disaggregation by service type, age, sex and disability and ethnicity	Social Welfare Information System (SWIS) and relevant reports of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Institute for Social and Child Protection SWIS and relevant reports of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Institute for Social and Child Protection SWIS and relevant reports of the Ministry of Labour	1. Enhanced multisectoral cooperation for effective support to vulnerable children and families and prevention of family breakdown 2. Different models for more efficient and cost- effective design and implementation of social protection policy for children (cash transfers and services) developed for consideration by the Government 3. Social welfare and child protection system has an enhanced capacity for and oversight of planning, provision and coordination of quality social and child protection interventions and services, in a culturally sensitive way	Builds on the reforms of the social and child protection system conducted in the previous programme cycle. Funded through key donors (e.g., EU) under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education. Participating UN agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, ILO.	1 264	3 150	4 414

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Baseline (2014): 310 children (includes family outreach, Day-care Centres, foster care and small group-homes) (169 boys, 141 girls), 14 of them aged under 3, 60 with disabilities, no data on Roma Target (2021): 449 (228 boys, 221 girls) 41 of them aged under 3, 103 with disabilities Children (0–17 years) living in institutional care per 100,000 child population, disaggregated by age (under 3 and 3+), by sex and disability Baseline (2015): Total ratio 121 (65 boys, 56 girls), 4 of them under age 3; 117 age 3 and older; 79 with disability Target (2021): Total ratio 93, with 0 under age 3; 93 of them aged 3 and older; and 54 with disability No. of cases of violence against boys and girls registered, disaggregated by sex Baseline (2014): 310 cases per year, not disaggregated by sex Target (2021): 500 cases per year, disaggregated by sex	and Social Welfare and Institute for Social and Child Protection Report of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and of the Ministry of Health	4. Parents, including in Roma communities, have increased awareness of violence against children, including prohibition of corporal punishment, early marriages and gender-based violence				
Girls and boys, especially those affected by poverty,	Average share of 15-year-old students who perform at PISA	OECD PISA Review, National	1. Central educational institutions, as well as primary and	Builds on the experiences, adopted	1 208	2 920	4 128

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
adversity and exclusion, progressively utilize quality, inclusive and efficient education system reinforced by policies, programmes and services for empowerment and participation, by 2021.	Level 2 or above (in maths, reading, and sciences) Baseline (2012): Reading – 57% Maths – 43% Science – 49% Target (2021): Reading – 66%, Maths – 54%, Science – 59% ECE enrolment rate (3–6 years), disaggregated by region Baseline (2014/15): 53.5% Target (2020/21): 80% Percentage of children with disabilities and Roma enrolled in primary education Baseline (2014/15): Children with disabilities – 36% Roma – 85% Target (2020/21): Children with disabilities – 48%; Roma – 95% Percentage of recommendations submitted by adolescents through U-Report (UNICEF's social platform for children) acted upon by national/local institutions Baseline (2016): 0% Target (2021): 30%	report on PISA results Ministry of Education, Montenegro Statistics Office (MONSTAT) data, UNICEF research and studies Ministry of Education, MONSTAT data, UNICEF research and studies UNICEF research/study, Annual Reports of the Directorate for Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education UNICEF research/study Annual Reports of the Directorate for Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education	secondary schools have the capacity to provide quality, inclusive and innovative services 2. ECE system has the capacity to provide quality, inclusive and diversified services, including capacity for continuous promotion of importance of ECE for overall child development 3. Youth Innovation Lab functional and able to foster innovative solutions for youth affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion 4. Quality and accessible tools and mechanisms to consult youth on policy making and/or service design are in place	strategies and latest science, to continue the long term trust and partnerships with the Ministry of Education, the Bureau for Education, and the Examination Centre, as well as schools and kindergartens. Partnerships with CSOs, particularly associations of parents (of children with disabilities) and youth, Roma non-governmental organizations, to be expanded to strengthen the demand side. Adolescent empowerment through innovation is an emerging area. Main partners: Ministry of Education and Directorate for Youth and Sports. Participating UN agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNHCR.			

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Girls and boys progressively utilize well-governed and accountable child rights coordination and monitoring systems and have equitable access to justice, by 2021.	Degree of congruence among the Government, autonomous bodies and civil society organizations (CSOs) on the comprehensiveness and acceptability of Child Rights Monitoring (CRM) reports Baseline (2016): Medium Target (2021): Very high Proportion of complaints made by children or their representatives to the Ombudsperson's Office officially investigated and for which a remedial action was taken within 6 months Baseline (2015): 160 Target (2021): 300 Percentage of specialized professionals who apply child friendly justice proceedings in working with children Baseline (2015): 30% Target (2021): 100% Percentage of children directed to application of diversion measures over the number of children prosecuted Baseline (2015): 48% Target (2021): 65%	Government reports, Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations ("Concluding Observations") to be issued for Montenegro, Reports on realization of measures from Action Plan for Negotiation Chapters 23 and 24, Reports and statistics of the Office of the Human Rights Protector of Montenegro, EU Progress Reports, Concluding Observations to be issued for MNE Judicial Training Centre reports, Supreme Court and Supreme State Prosecutor's reports, Police Academy statistics, Bar Chamber statistics, Institute for Social and Child Protection reports	1. Major duty-bearers, including independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) and CSOs, have the requisite capacity and accountability mechanism for monitoring and reporting on child rights 2. National sectoral information systems have access to and capacity for incorporating disaggregated data on issues pertaining to child rights in the country 3. Children, adults and professionals in related sectors have an enhanced awareness and understanding of children as rights holders and of mechanisms for realizing their rights, with special focus on children belonging to minority groups and children with disabilities 4. Judicial staff and other professionals are qualified to promote and apply child-friendly and gender-responsive justice for all children, including restorative justice principles for girls and boys in conflict with the law	Builds on the reforms in juvenile justice, while also aspiring to achieve a coordinated, responsive system of child rights monitoring. Responds to a critical requirement of enhancing national monitoring system. Key partners are Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI). Participating UN agencies: UNICEF, UNDP	653	1 269	1 922

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
		Supreme State Prosecutor's reports					
The Government of Montenegro–UNICEF programme of cooperation meets quality standards in achieving results for children.	Programme of cooperation is: (a) effectively designed; (b) coordinated; (c) managed; and (d) supported Baseline: Yes Target: Yes	Programme of cooperation	1. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively and efficiently design and manage the programme of cooperation are available to UNICEF and its partners. 2. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively generate, analyse, and utilize statistical and qualitative information for Child Rights Monitoring system are available in the country. 3. Guidance, tools and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders are available to UNICEF and its partners. 4. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied throughout the programme of cooperation.	All UNICEF partners in Montenegro	1 145	0	1 145
Total resources					**4 270**	**7 339**	**11 609**

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United Nations Children's Fund
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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $12,735,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $58,637,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.

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Programme rationale

1. Over three decades, UNICEF has enjoyed a strong partnership with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the common pursuit of the child-related Millennium Development Goals and in joint humanitarian action. The new country programme of cooperation affords the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the opportunity to renew its obligations to act in the best interests of all of its children, as formalized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the child-focused Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

2. In 2014, the country endorsed 113 out of 185 recommendations of the Human Rights Council through the universal periodic review. The proposed country programme will support the Government in the progressive realization of those recommendations pertaining to maternal and child health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and social inclusion and the broader rights of children and women as articulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In April 2016, the Government submitted the Fifth and sixth combined report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which was due in 2012, and also submitted the Combined second, third and fourth periodic reports of States parties due in 2014 to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed in 2013 and, although not yet ratified, related laws are being revised in line with the Convention.

3. The country has approximately 24.9 million inhabitants (2014) with 6.8 million children, of whom 1.7 million are under age 5. The rate of urbanization is approximately 60 per cent. The total fertility rate reduced from 2.01 per cent in 2008 to 1.91 per cent in 2014, and average life expectancy rose to 72 years in 2014 (68 years for males and 76 years for females) from 69.3 in 2008.[1]

4. Gross domestic product per capita was estimated at $1,013 in 2013.[2] In the absence of a private sector, state-owned industries and agriculture account for most of the national revenue. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy and remains dependant on rainfall and traditional farming methods. This leaves the sector (and thus the economy) extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and to environmental shocks.

5. The country is ranked 39 out of 191 countries in terms of disaster risk, according to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Index for Risk Management.[3] High levels of vulnerability combined with exposure to seasonal hazards such as floods and droughts make disasters a recurrent threat, with severe impacts on children. More than 5.6 million people were affected by natural disasters between

[1] All data in this paragraph is from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

[2] CBS, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

[3] 2016 INFORM risk index, accessed on 10 June 2016, www.inform-index.org/Countries/Country-Profile-Map.

2004 and 2015.[4] With climate change threatening to make extreme weather events more frequent and severe, risk reduction is a priority.

6. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to face a protracted, underfunded humanitarian crisis, which has been worsened by two years of drought and complicated by limited access to quality vital services. In 2015, the Central Bureau of Statistics estimated that 5.5 million people (22 per cent of the population) were food insecure.

7. International sanctions limit national development and the implementation of United Nations-supported humanitarian programmes. In 2014, all banking channels were blocked for nine months, forcing United Nations agencies to operate in business-continuity mode and seriously reducing the ability of UNICEF to deliver life-saving health and nutrition supplies and services. A ban on imports from many countries, complex licencing requirements, increased scrutiny of supplies passing through customs and logistical complexities also delay the importation and distribution of essential supplies. Further banking channel disruptions in 2015 and in early 2016 similarly affected the organization's ability to operate. The specific impact of sanctions on the lives of vulnerable children and women could not be measured.

8. Limited data management capacity hinders the analysis, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of results for children and makes it challenging to understand the distribution and depth of disparities, risks and humanitarian needs. Lack of data also makes it difficult to fully assess performance on the Millennium Development Goals or to establish a baseline for the Sustainable Development Goals, although available evidence demonstrates significant inequities. For example, the 2012 National Nutrition Survey suggests that the rate of stunting among under-five children in two northern provinces affected by the protracted humanitarian needs is almost three times higher than in the capital city.

9. Limitations on data collection make it difficult to assess the humanitarian needs of women and girls and to determine if they lack resources, decision-making power, information and knowledge, or carry an excessive burden of duties. While progress has been made in terms of de jure gender equality (gender parity has been realized in education, labour force participation and access to health care), there is evidence that de facto gender equality is not yet a reality for men and women. In 2015, women held 20.2 per cent of the seats in the Supreme People's Assembly, 16.1 per cent of the director or higher-level seats at the ministerial level, and 11.9 per cent of seats on the bench as judges. Although women comprise almost half (47.8 per cent) of the labour force, occupations tend to be stereotyped by sex, with women occupying more administrative roles than men.

10. The impact of seasonal disasters, chronic deprivation and limited access to quality life-saving services is evident in child and maternal mortality rates. According to the 2014 Socio Economic, Demographic and Health Survey, the infant mortality rate is 13.7 deaths per 1,000 live births and the under-five mortality rate is 16.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. The maternal mortality ratio decreased from 68 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2012 to 66 per 100,000 live births in 2014, and is linked to the compromised quality of maternal health services and the inadequate

[4] CBS, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

nutritional status of women. The rate of decline in both maternal and child mortality were insufficient to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by 2015.

11. More than half of under-five deaths occur during the first 28 days of life due to preterm birth complications, infections and hypothermia. Pneumonia (12 per cent for the post-neonatal period in 2015) and diarrhoea (6 per cent for the neonatal period in 2015) are also major contributors to under-five mortality. Undernutrition is also recognized as a major underlying cause of both maternal and child mortality and morbidity.

12. Malnutrition is a major impediment to children's physical, cognitive and social development, considering the irreversible impact of stunting and wasting. The National Nutrition Survey in 2012 showed that there was a modest decrease in under-five stunting, from 32.3 per cent in 2009 (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, MICS) to 28 per cent in 2012. The same survey indicated that 4 per cent of under-five children were wasted and 0.6 per cent were severely wasted. Undernutrition results from suboptimal infant and child feeding practices, food insecurity, unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene, the absence of quality health services and essential medicines, and the inadequate nutritional status of mothers.

13. Lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation contributes to a higher incidence of diarrhoea, respiratory tract infections and waterborne diseases. The delivery and maintenance of WASH infrastructure and services remains a challenge across the country, but especially for children in rural areas and children in institutions. The United Nations estimates that 50 per cent of schools and health facilities and 38 per cent of nurseries lack adequate water and sanitation facilities.

14. Although some 77 per cent of households have access to piped water, the piped water supply systems constructed by the Government in the 1970s and 1980s have not received sufficient investments in maintenance and rehabilitation to remain fully operational. The situation has become critical due to recurring flood damage. A Water Assessment Survey conducted by the Ministry of City Management and the Central Bureau of Statistics between 2013 and 2014 indicates low sustainability of pumped water delivery systems. Twenty-four per cent of the population use rudimentary latrines, which allow faeces to enter the environment. The economic pressure to use faecal matter as fertilizer leads to widespread and unsafe handling of excreta in agriculture.

15. The country has near universal literacy. The 2009 MICS reported net enrolment in primary school at 96.4 per cent with gender parity, a primary level (Grades 1-4) completion rate of 100 per cent, and a 100 per cent rate of transition to secondary school. In 2014, free compulsory education was extended from 11 years to 12 years. Ninety-seven per cent of children under five benefit from early childhood education. A total of 16,700 children aged 0-16 live in state-run institutions such as baby homes, residential care centres and boarding schools, the funding for which is fully supported as a state priority. There are only 11 schools supporting children with disabilities throughout the country, which includes 3 schools for children with visual impairments and 8 for hearing-impaired children. Additional data are needed to fully assess the level of access to education and needs of children with disabilities.

16. Tuberculosis poses a public health challenge, with an estimated 110,290 cases and 3,000 deaths in 2014. Moreover, there are an estimated 3,900 multidrug-

resistant cases annually. Inadequate preventive, diagnostic and treatment services contribute to high rates of transmission, including to caregivers and children exposed to infected family members. Malaria transmission is seasonal and is the non-fatal type. The incidence is on the decline, with the proportion of malaria cases among children under five years at only 0.6 per cent.

Programme priorities and partnerships

17. The United Nations and partners in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recognize that a healthy, well-educated and well-nourished population is a more resilient one. Since multiple dimensions of child deprivation can exacerbate disaster risks, the country programme will focus on expanding access to vital services to save lives; enable healthy development and reduce underlying vulnerabilities for the most disadvantaged children and communities.

18. The programme has been developed within the four strategic priorities of the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) 2017-2021: (1) food and nutrition security; (2) social development services; (3) resilience and sustainability; and (4) data and development management. It is in line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014-2017. At the same time, the programme focuses on current humanitarian priorities, including (a) ensuring access to life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable people who are affected by disasters; (b) reducing malnutrition (particularly among children under five and pregnant and lactating women); and (c) improving access to basic health and WASH services.

19. The National Coordinating Committee serves as the main counterpart of UNICEF in implementation of the country programme. Consultations in 2015 with ministries, other United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners confirmed available data and validated an analysis of the structural, underlying and immediate causes of child deprivation and the barriers and bottlenecks to the expansion of life-saving assistance and to the realization of child rights. It also identified lessons learned from the 2011-2016 country programme, which included the need for (a) improved data use and management; (b) strengthened evidence-based advocacy for scaling up of low-cost, high-impact life-saving interventions; and (3) improved programming involving all sectors to address multidimensional vulnerability. As a result, the programme emphasises stronger cross-sectoral linkages and balances the urgent supply component with the required technical assistance to support hands-on training, policy work and programme communications.

20. UNICEF will further equity-focused, risk-informed and gender-sensitive programme implementation and monitoring, using the following strategies:

(a) Service delivery for the provision of vital services and life-saving supplies for children and women in humanitarian settings. Remote and underserved communities will receive priority attention. Efforts will continue to monitor the performance of services and to provide data on the impact of reducing the burden of acute needs among vulnerable populations.

(b) A human rights-based approach is central to addressing the country's humanitarian needs and priorities in a sustainable manner. Hands-on training will support service providers and caregivers to identify, analyse and address humanitarian needs and risks and to deliver vital life-saving services to the most

vulnerable. UNICEF will also support supervisory training at subnational levels to plan, target, manage and monitor activities and adapted strategies to remove barriers and bottlenecks to the effective delivery of quality social services. There will be a focus on gap analysis and addressing disparities through direct support, policy advocacy and training.

(c) Communication for development in humanitarian settings will support service delivery by raising awareness of gender barriers in accessing services and promoting life-saving behaviours, including exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and hand-washing. Communication activities will be integrated across all programmes, will address the stigma associated with children with disabilities, and advocate for approaches that address the rights of all children within the normative framework of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the recommendations of the universal periodic review.

(d) Evidence generation, policy and budget influence, and communication and advocacy are critical to addressing the underlying vulnerabilities and structural causes of deprivation, which exacerbate disaster risk. UNICEF will continue to advocate with the Government for improved collection, management and analysis of real-time data across all sectors, underlining its criticality for both humanitarian and development planning. Building on available analyses and past successes, UNICEF will support scaling-up interventions to address neonatal and maternal mortality; undernutrition in women, adolescents and children; and equity in education, particularly for children with disabilities.

(e) Cross-sectoral activities will strengthen the availability and quality of child-related data across sectors, and encourage programme convergence through application of 'the first 1,000 days of life' approach, which links nutrition, health and WASH interventions. Synergies between these sectors will be demonstrated in nine provinces in nine convergent counties and will inform the replication of effective delivery of life-saving interventions. Convergence of programmes will allow planning for integrated services to reduce high rates of mortality and morbidity; promote early childhood development; address undernutrition among women and girls; facilitate equitable access to WASH services and build community resilience. In addition to these convergent counties, the health and nutrition programmes will reach an additional 41 priority counties with life-saving interventions.

(f) In the absence of civil society organizations, the private sector and international financial institutions, partnerships will be centred within the United Nations, with UNICEF providing sectoral leadership in nutrition and WASH. UNICEF will continue to work with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria ('the Global Fund'), academia and international organizations.

21. The effective delivery of life-saving assistance and achievement of programmatic results are dependent on a variety of internal and external factors. UNICEF assumes that it can operate from an adequate resource base and that the Government will support scale-up of evidence-based life-saving interventions using its own resources. It is also critical that the Government continue to engage in equity-based policy dialogue and support human rights principles, gender equality and inclusion in programme design; that caregivers are receptive to changing child-

feeding and care practices; and that vital services progressively improve in quality, thus optimizing inputs from UNICEF.

Health

22. UNICEF will continue to support the Government in the development of health sector policies and implementation of the Medium Term Strategic Plan for the Development of the Health Sector, focusing on the provision of life-saving humanitarian interventions for the most vulnerable communities. In line with the UNSF, the programme will contribute to the strengthening of health-care delivery to provide urgently required gender-sensitive, evidence-based preventive and curative services, which will help to reduce maternal, neonatal and under-five morbidity and mortality, and prevent and control malaria and tuberculosis. UNICEF will also support the Disaster Management Unit of the Ministry of Public Health to better identify humanitarian needs and risks, and to promptly and effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies.

23. The Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) programme will focus on the major causes of under-five mortality, including pneumonia, diarrhoea and undernutrition. Along with the provision of essential medicine kits, the programme will be implemented in 50 priority counties affected by the protracted humanitarian crises. In these counties, 5,000 household doctors (male and female) will be trained and supplied with essential medicines and basic equipment to provide effective antenatal care, basic curative services and health promotion. The delivery of immunization services will be supported nationally and will be improved by training managers, upgrading the cold chain and enhancing monitoring systems to ensure quality services, with particular attention to hard-to-reach villages and those affected by the protracted humanitarian crisis. Based on a further needs assessment, a total of 89 counties may also receive the essential medicine kits.

24. A costed package of evidence-based emergency obstetric and newborn care services will be implemented in nine convergent counties to demonstrate its contribution to reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, and to inform scale up by the Government.

25. Tuberculosis and malaria will be addressed through mid-2018 with funding provided by the Global Fund through UNICEF as the principal recipient and the World Health Organization as the subrecipient. The tuberculosis grant focuses on expanding case management and strengthening health systems to ensure efficient supply chain management and service delivery in 190 counties in 10 provinces. The malaria grant aims to reduce incidence by 70 per cent in 2017 and focuses on diagnosis and treatment, targeted vector control and prevention measures in 123 counties in nine provinces.

Nutrition

26. Considering the presence of both acute and chronic needs and vulnerabilities, the nutrition programme component will contribute to the reduction of undernutrition in children and women, including stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies. The programme will focus on delivering an integrated package of nutrition-specific interventions to adolescent girls, women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women and children under five, with a

special focus on children aged 0-23 months. It will promote the equitable use of quality nutrition services and behaviours for preventing and treating undernutrition, and will provide life-saving treatment for acutely malnourished children in the 50 priority counties supported by health partners, which include the nine convergent counties. Based on needs, support for providing treatment for acutely malnourished children may be extended to cover a total of 89 counties.

27. To help to ensure that every child can realize their full cognitive and physical capacity, hygiene and nutrition education and communication will be supported to promote optimal infant and young child feeding practices. This includes early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, age-appropriate complementary feeding, optimum caring practices and early stimulation. Nutrition education will be provided in maternity hospitals, childcare institutions and at the community level by household doctors.

28. UNICEF will continue its support for national distribution of vitamin A, deworming and multi-micronutrient supplementation to prevent micronutrient-related disorders and to prevent anaemia among young children, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating mothers. Gender-responsive information on women's health and hygiene will be included along with the delivery of micronutrient supplements. Efforts will continue to address iodine deficiency disorders including through the iodization of salt. UNICEF will support the provision of zinc for the treatment of diarrhoea.

29. The nutrition programme will use disaggregated data to formulate a multisectoral nutrition strategy that considers persistent humanitarian needs, reflects international standards and promotes equity. The nutrition emergency preparedness and response plan will include strategies for risk reduction and for building resilience among communities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

30. In line with sector strategies and the UNSF, the WASH programme component will contribute to improving access to sustainable clean water supplies, ensuring water quality and promoting improved sanitation and hygiene practices, including the safe management of excreta. Focusing its activities exclusively in the nine convergent counties, the programme will address humanitarian needs and risks and focus on communities, schools and health facilities, considering the specific hygiene and sanitation needs of women and girls. It will provide technical and other support to complement local resources used to establish gravity-fed water systems.

31. The programme will support the delivery of services at the community level through technical assistance, coordination, evidence-based sector planning, monitoring and leveraging resources for expanded services. Technical assistance will support the development of guidance on gender standards in WASH. The resilience of communities and the Ministry of City Management at subnational levels will be strengthened to cope with floods and droughts. The programme will also support a hygiene education and behaviour change communication strategy to address risky hygiene behaviours.

Planning, monitoring and evaluation

32. This programme component aligns with the data and development management thematic area of the UNSF and aims to improve the availability, quality and use of data to better analyse the patterns of humanitarian needs and address risks. Improved analysis should enable evidence-based policy advocacy and planning, as well as improved design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, particularly for addressing humanitarian needs.

33. UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of the Child Data Management Unit of the Central Bureau of Statistics to undertake equity-focused, age- and gender-disaggregated data analysis, with a special focus on humanitarian needs and risks. Understanding the immediate, underlying and root causes of vulnerability, the programme will contribute to advocacy and policy dialogue, and support reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

34. Decision makers in key technical ministries will be supported to track indicators and to remove the bottlenecks and barriers that prevent humanitarian needs from being addressed. The National Commission for Disaster Management will have increased capacity for identification and mapping of vulnerabilities and risks and planning and responding to humanitarian situations in at-risk communities. The programme component will recognize and account for specific gender needs in terms of vulnerability and coping mechanisms in emergencies.

35. The Education Commission will play a central role in ensuring that disaggregated data sharpens education planning and helps to address inequities, with a specific focus on identifying and addressing the educational needs of children with disabilities.

Programme effectiveness

36. Programme effectiveness will support the four programme components (health; nutrition; WASH; and planning, monitoring and evaluation) by ensuring the efficient and effective use of funds, supplies and human resources as they relate to both programmes and operations. This component will support cross-cutting issues such as advocacy, communication for development, inter-agency coordination, monitoring, evaluation and staff development.

Summary budget table

	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
Programme component	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Health*	2 946	33 270	36 216
Nutrition	3 576	13 902	17 478
Water, sanitation and hygiene	3 396	8 465	11 861
Planning monitoring and evaluation	526	1 500	2 026
Programme effectiveness	2 291	1 500	3 791
Total	**12 735**	**58 637**	**71 372**

* $12.4 million has been provided by the Global Fund to address tuberculosis and malaria in 2017/18.

Programme and risk management

37. The National Coordinating Committee organizes the development of the UNSF to which the UNICEF-supported programme is aligned, facilitates the work of UNICEF with all counterparts, approves the number of UNICEF International Professional Officers and facilitates visas for staff and consultants.

38. Government personnel are seconded to UNICEF from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but there have been challenges matching available skills sets with the programme requirements. Seconded personnel are accountable to the Government and, due to their high turnover, the retention of institutional memory is a challenge. To improve efficiency and effectiveness, UNICEF will continue its efforts to directly engage technically skilled national personnel, bolster internal capacity to provide ongoing technical assistance, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation as vital learning and accountability tools.

39. The Ministry of Public Health is the primary duty-bearer for the health and nutrition programmes, and works with other government institutions, including the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Institute of Child Nutrition. The State Planning Commission oversees the universal salt iodization initiative. Accountability for WASH-related activities rests with the Ministry of City Management. The Child Data Management Unit of the Central Bureau of Statistics plays a pivotal role in providing the systematic evidence needed to plan, monitor and evaluate programmes. The Education Commission is a partner in addressing disparities in the education sector, including with regard to children with disabilities and WASH in schools.

40. Political uncertainty and international sanctions have an impact on UNICEF capacity to mobilize resources for the country programme. This in turn can affect the organization's ability to support partners with necessary financial, material and technical assistance, thus threatening the achievement of outputs. Further restrictions to banking, supply chains and staff movements can also cripple operations and increase risks for vulnerable communities.

41. The collective achievement of outcomes could also be threatened by factors in the wider environment beyond the organization's control, such as downward trends in the economy and the agricultural sector that affect food security and government support for social services. Humanitarian situations, triggered by both human and natural hazards, are also a persistent risk to the achievement of results, with potentially severe consequences for children and for UNICEF. In convergent counties, unequal funding across programmes may undermine the expected programmatic synergy. There are also risks associated with the Government as the sole interlocutor that determines which perspectives, resources and priorities will be integrated into sectoral plans.

42. To mitigate risks at different levels of the results chain, UNICEF will push to expand the evidence base to enhance programme design, sharpen targeting, better focus advocacy efforts and enhance the mobilization and leveraging of resources. UNICEF will also work in close coordination with other United Nations agencies to engage with the Government on issues related to access, continuity of operations, good practices and lessons learned on programming. Technical assistance from UNICEF international staff will ensure a robust field presence for programme monitoring, through the use of standardized tools and templates. In coordination

with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will continue to analyse risks in the programming environment, develop contingency plans and ensure that relevant early warning, early action and enterprise risk management systems are up to date. This includes preparation of an annual risk control self-assessment process (where risks are assessed and mitigation measures confirmed) and relevant plans for business continuity. UNICEF will also conduct rigorous financial tracking and regular audit of its systems and structures to ensure proper stewardship of financial resources. Programme evaluation will be a priority, with the evaluation budget rising up to 1 per cent, in line with global best practices.

43. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to humanitarian results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

Monitoring and evaluation

44. To ensure that all financial and material resources are used effectively, efficiently and in accordance with plans to achieve the desired results, UNICEF will strengthen its routine supply and programme monitoring activities. Supply monitoring will consider the timeliness of deliveries and proper storage and accountabilities for every step of the logistics chain to the end user. Routine programme monitoring will ensure that health-care providers properly use the supplies and that programme activities are implemented as planned. During programme monitoring, UNICEF will provide on-the-job training to health staff to correctly use supplies and identify and respond to issues in programme delivery.

45. Evaluation will be critical in determining the efficiency, effectiveness and continued relevance of the new programme in a rapidly evolving programming context. As part of the UNSF and UNICEF programme development, monitoring and evaluation matrices were developed and aligned, thus ensuring that equity, gender equality and disaster risk and environmental sustainability are central thrusts of the programme.

46. UNICEF, working with the National Coordinating Committee and the Central Bureau of Statistics, will also strengthen the Child Data Management Unit to improve the analysis and use of age- and gender-disaggregated data in order to monitor results for equity. The UNICEF plan for monitoring and evaluation will be linked to the monitoring framework of the UNSF and will be the basis for tracking progress and ensuring that independent summative evaluations are built into programme design. Humanitarian performance monitoring will be used to assess progress towards results and to make changes that may be required using annual sectoral reviews and the mid-term review.

Contingency planning

47. In the event that other resources become severely limited, UNICEF will further prioritize support for the most impactful life-saving interventions in the country programme, namely the immunization programme, the provision of essential medicines and the treatment of severely malnourished children.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Democratic People's Republic of Korea — UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Sustainable Development Goals: 2. Improved nutrition 3. Ensure healthy lives, promote well-being; 4. Ensure inclusive, equitable quality education; 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation; 10. Reduce inequality; 17. Strengthen global partnerships.
United Nations Development Assistance Framework outcomes involving UNICEF: Strategic priority one: Food and nutrition security, Outcome 1.3; Strategic priority two: Social development services: Outcomes 2.1 to 2.7; Strategic priority three: Resilience and sustainability; Outcome 3.1; Strategic priority four: Data and development management: Outcomes 4.1 to 4.3
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): Health; WASH; Nutrition; Education; Social inclusion

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. By 2021, pregnant women and newborn and under-five children have equitable access to essential health care services; and tuberculosis and malaria are prevented and controlled.	Percentage (%) of under-one children and pregnant women fully vaccinated. Baseline (B): 94% (Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) report 2015) Target (T): 98%	Health Information Management System (HMIS)	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has enhanced capacity to develop, implement and monitor evidence-based maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) national policies, strategies, humanitarian action plans and guidelines. A package of knowledge products, skills and tools is available to ensure equitable	National Coordinating Committee (NCC), MoPH; Academy of Medical Sciences; World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund	2 946	33 270	36 216
	% of deaths among children under five years due to diarrhoea. B: 6% (A Promise Renewed (APR), 2015)	Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES), APR, National Tuberculosis (TB)					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	T: 4%	and Malaria Surveillance System, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)/MICS, IMNCI evaluation	access to quality maternal, neonatal and child health services, including emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC). MoPH and health system have enhanced capacity to provide equitable access to quality immunization and IMNCI services, particularly in those regions affected by the protracted humanitarian crisis. MoPH has the capacity and commitment to provide quality-assured diagnosis and treatment of malaria cases, and implement targeted vector control interventions. MoPH has enhanced capacity and commitment to scale up preventive, diagnostic and treatment services for TB and multi-drug resistant TB cases. MICS, health EPI CES and evaluation of community IMNCI conducted.				
	% of deaths among children under five years (post neonatal period) due to pneumonia. B: 12% (APR, 2015) T: 7%	APR					
	Case notification rate of all forms of TB per 100 000 population B: 394 (National TB and Malaria Surveillance System, 2013) T: 414	National TB and Malaria Surveillance System					
	% of population at-risk covered by long lasting insecticidal nets B: 51.9% (National TB and Malaria Surveillance System, 2013 HMIS T: 100%	National TB and Malaria Surveillance System, HMIS					
	% of households in targeted areas covered by indoor residual spraying	National TB and Malaria Surveillance					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR)* (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	B: 81.4% (National Malaria Surveillance System, 2013) T: 95%	System,					
2. By 2021, adolescent girls, women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women and under-5 children utilize nutrition services equitably and practice age- and context-appropriate behaviours for the prevention and treatment of undernutrition.	% infants <6 months exclusively breastfed B: 69%, T: 80%	National Nutrition Status Survey, MICS, DHS.	MoPH has enhanced capacity to develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive package of women-, adolescent- and child-related nutrition-specific interventions, particularly in those regions affected by the protracted humanitarian crisis. State Planning Commission and Ministry of Chemical Industry have national implementation and monitoring plans and frameworks to achieve universal salt iodization. National Nutrition Survey of under-five children, adolescents and women conducted	NCC, MoPH State Planning Commission, National Institute for Child Nutrition, World Food Programme, WHO, UNFPA	3 576	13 902	17 478
	% of households consuming adequately iodized salt B: 25%, T: 50%	Health and Nutrition Information Management System					
	% of pregnant women receiving micronutrient tablets B: 27%, T: 50% (National Nutrition Survey)	Health and Nutrition Information Management System					
3. By 2021, women and children have equitable access to sustainable, clean water and sanitation services, and practise	% of national population using improved and safely managed drinking water services B: 77% (derived from Central Bureau of Statistics	MICS; census; DHS/equivalent survey; Education Management Information System (EMIS); HMIS;	Selected cooperative farms, households, schools and health facilities in nine convergent counties have the knowledge and skills required to practice hygiene behaviours	NCC, MoCM, State Commission for Emergency and Disaster Management, Food and Agricultural Organization of the	3 396	8 465	11 861

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
improved hygiene and sanitation behaviours in humanitarian situations.	(CBS)/Ministry of City Management (MoCM) Water Assessment, 2013) T: 90%	Water Assessment Surveys and other surveys; Annual WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) reports	and safe use of faecal matter in agriculture. Water quality testing data are made available according to international standards, used as input for water sector policy dialogue. People's Committees in nine convergent counties have strengthened capacity to assess WASH needs and to plan, manage and monitor WASH services. State Commission for Emergency and Disaster Management has strengthened capacity for a multisectoral emergency response in line with the Core Commitments for Children and to build community resilience in Humanitarian Action. Water quality assessment and impact evaluation of gravity fed water system conducted	United Nations, United Nations Development Programme			
	Number (#) of schools and health-care facilities with basic WASH facilities B: unknown T: at least 20% above the baseline	EMIS, Water Assessment Surveys and other surveys					
	% of national population using improved and safely managed sanitation services B: 82% (WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2014) T: 92%	MICS, annual WHO/UNICEF JMP reports					
	% of national population safely using faecal matter in agriculture B: 23% (virtual open defecation, derived from field observations and WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2014) T: reduced to less than 13%	MICS, annual WHO/UNICEF JMP reports					
4. Government uses disaggregated data for equity-focused social policy development	# of sectors using current data disaggregated by gender and location in policies and plans	Sectoral policies and plans	CBS has capacity to coordinate, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data related to children,	NCC, CDMU/CBS, National Education Commission, Handicap International, United	526	1 500	2 026

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR)* (*In thousands of United States dollars*)		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
and planning and for reporting on the rights of children and women in humanitarian situations.	B: NA T: 4 sectors (health, nutrition, WASH and education)		adolescents and women in humanitarian situations. National Education Commission has data and evidence to improve planning, learning outcomes and to address the needs of children with disabilities. Learning achievement assessment conducted	Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNFPA			
	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)/Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)/Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) reports use current disaggregated data B: NA T: 3 reports (CRC/CEDAW/CRPD)	CRC/CEDAW/ CRPD reports					
5. Programme effectiveness: Country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for childrer.	# of participatory annual reviews conducted during the programme cycle Baseline: 6 (2011-2016) Target: 5	UNICEF monitoring	UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively plan and monitor programmes.	NCC, CDMU/CBS, MoPH, Institute of Child Nutrition, Academy of Medical Sciences, MoCM, Ministry of Education, State Planning Commission. Other: United Nations agencies	2 291	1 500	3 791
Total resources					**12 735**	**58 637**	**71 372**

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United Nations Children's Fund
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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Lao People's Democratic Republic is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $12,880,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $50,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

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Programme rationale

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a land-linked, mountainous country with a young and ethnically diverse population. With a total population of 6.5 million,[1] some 59 per cent are children and young people below the age of 25.[2] Population growth dropped from 2.08 per cent per annum between 1995 and 2005 to 1.45 per cent between 2005 and 2015.[3] There are 49 official ethnic groups comprised of 167 subgroups with different dialects, languages, cultures and traditions.[4]

2. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has developed its Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020, that aims to reduce poverty significantly and graduate from its least developed country status by 2020. The eighth plan localizes the Sustainable Development Goals into national targets and places a strong emphasis on the achievement of off-track Millennium Development Goals.

3. The country has progressively integrated into the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) economic community — a single market and production base — which includes transportation corridors in which the country is pivotal.

4. Strong economic growth, driven primarily by natural resources and energy sectors, enabled the country to move from a low income to a lower middle-income country in 2011. The economy grew at 7.5 per cent between 2011 and 2013,[5] and poverty has fell by half.[6] However, inequalities remain with significant disparities between urban and rural, upland and lowland, wealth quintiles, mother's education and ethnicity.[7]

5. The country has achieved Millennium Development Goal targets on poverty reduction, universal access and gender parity in primary education, maternal mortality reduction, and access to water and sanitation.[8] However, some targets, such as child nutrition and primary school completion, remain unmet, and many social indicators are among the lowest in East Asia and the Pacific, with significant disparities in access and utilization.

6. The country's under-five mortality rate fell from 162 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 67 in 2015.[9] The majority of deaths is due to preventable causes, such as neonatal conditions, pneumonia and diarrhoea.[10] Child mortality rates vary

[1] Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Statistics Bureau: Lao Population and Housing Census, 2015.
[2] Lao Statistics Bureau, 2013, estimates from 2005 Lao Population and Housing Census.
[3] Ministry of Planning and Investment, op. cit.
[4] Lao Statistics Bureau, 2013 estimates from 2005 Lao Population and Housing Census.
[5] Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Labour Organization (ILO), 2014, "ASEAN community 2015: Managing integration for better jobs and shared prosperity", Bangkok.
[6] Lao Statistics Bureau and Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 5 — preliminary results, 2015.
[7] Warr, P., Rasphone, S. and Menon, J., "Two decades of rising inequality and declining poverty in the Lao People's Democratic Republic", ADB Economic Working Paper Series, No. 461, November 2015.
[8] United Nations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, "The Millennium Development Goals and lessons learned for the post-2015 period: a summary review", 2015.
[9] United Nations Inter-agency Group on Child Mortality Estimation, 2015.
[10] Lives saved tool analysis for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2015.

by geographic location, ethnic group, mother's education and socioeconomic status.[11]

7. Undernutrition contributed to half of all under-five deaths. Around 44 per cent of children under five are stunted,[12] and 41 per cent suffer from anaemia,[13] among the highest rates in East Asia and the Pacific. Children in the northern and southern regions exhibit a higher prevalence of stunting (51 and 47 per cent, respectively) than children in the central region (38 per cent).[14] Inadequate infant and young child feeding contributes to high mortality and undernutrition. While the exclusive breastfeeding rate for children under six months doubled between 2006 and 2012, continued breastfeeding declined and formula use increased during the same period.[15] Minimum dietary diversity in young children is very low, especially among the poorest.[16]

8. The maternal mortality ratio fell from 905 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 197 in 2015,[17] but it is still one of the highest in East Asia and the Pacific. Decline in fertility, improvements in contraception prevalence, antenatal care coverage and skilled birth attendance contributed to the decline. Among women of reproductive age, 36 per cent suffer from anaemia.[18]

9. About 1.7 million people still lack access to an improved water source, two million people to basic sanitation and hygiene, and an estimated 1.6 million people practice open defecation.[19] Urban and rural disparities are significant, with nine in 10 persons in urban areas using improved sanitation facilities compared to five in 10 in rural areas. Water collection is mainly the responsibility of women and girls. Key bottlenecks in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector include an insufficient national policy, limited funding, weak coordination among key sectors, lack of community ownership, and social norms that hinder hygiene practice and use of sanitation facilities.

10. While the country is well endowed with water, climate change, the El Niño effect and human activities are gradually affecting the sustainability of WASH services and the quality of water resources. With some 75 per cent of the population depending on natural resources for their livelihood, climate change adaptation is a national priority.

11. Enrolment of five year olds in early childhood education has increased significantly, from 16.1 per cent in 2007 to 60.7 per cent in 2014,[20] although significant inequities remain. There is high social demand for early childhood education but capacity to expand the coverage is limited. The Grade 1 repetition rate in 2014 (15.3 per cent) was more than double the average primary education

[11] Lao Social Indicator Survey, 2011-2012.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ministry of Planning and Investment (Lao Statistics Bureau) and Ministry of Health: Lao Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2006.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Lao Social Indicator Survey, 2011-2012.
[16] Ministry of Health and Lao Bureau of Statistics, Food and Nutrition Security Survey, 2015.
[17] United Nations Inter-agency Group on Maternal Mortality Estimation, 2015.
[18] Ministry of Planning and Investment (Lao Statistics Bureau) and Ministry of Health: MICS, 2006.
[19] WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme for water supply and sanitation, 2015.
[20] Education management information system, Ministry of Education and Sports, 2014.

repetition (6.9 per cent),[21] indicating a lack of school readiness. Language barriers are key factors, contributing to the high repetition rate, especially in Grade 1.[22]

12. Despite high rates of primary net enrolment with gender parity, the primary education survival rate is currently 78 per cent,[23] the lowest in East Asia and the Pacific. In urban areas, 95 per cent of children attend school compared to 83 per cent in rural areas. The early grade reading assessment survey results from 2012, showing that only 58 per cent of Grade 5 students in the sample achieved a basic level of reading fluency, raising concerns about the quality of primary education.[24]

13. Of children aged two to 14, 76 per cent experience physical punishment or psychological aggression from an adult in their households, of which 10 per cent experience severe physical punishment.[25] The country has one of the lowest rates of birth registration in Asia, with only 75 per cent of children below age five registered.[26] The country has the highest percentage of child marriage in East Asia and the Pacific, with 37 per cent of women aged 20 to 49 married by age 18. Information on children with disabilities and children without parental care is very limited.

14. There is a need to further harmonize national policies and laws with international legal obligations and translate them into practice through dissemination, enforcement and implementation. Institutional and human capital for child care are limited, as are family-support and community-based child protection services. Awareness about violence and its impact on children is low at all levels, and social norms that perpetuate the use of violence are widely accepted.

15. The country has achieved important policy advances in health and nutrition, WASH, education and child protection, which led to some significant advances for children. However, studies and evaluations during the current country programme suggest that execution of policies and plans face many challenges as a result of insufficient capacity, difficult terrain, dispersed populations in remote areas and lack of demand.

16. Outbreaks of diphtheria and polio in 2015 provided valuable lessons learned by underlining the importance of ensuring essential services in hard-to-reach areas, despite the overall shift to upstream work by development partners inspired by economic transition.

17. Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UNICEF comparative advantage includes strong technical expertise on the ground, with operational capacities in both development and humanitarian contexts, evidence-informed programmes focusing on the needs of the underserved and hard-to-reach children, a balanced approach to support upstream policy and downstream execution, advocacy and communications, and multi-sectoral engagement in social sectors.

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[21] Ibid.

[22] Education for All 2015 review: the Lao People's Democratic Republic country report, Ministry of Education and Sports, 2014.

[23] Ibid.

[24] Early grade reading assessment, 2014.

[25] Lao Social Indicator Survey, 2011-2012.

[26] Ibid.

Programme priorities and partnerships

18. The country programme, 2017-2021, aligns with seven of the eight outcomes of the United Nations Partnership Framework, 2017-2021, and contributes to the achievement of the national priorities of the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020. It is also linked to the Sustainable Development Goals on poverty reduction, hunger, health, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, reduced inequalities, peace and justice, and partnerships.

19. To develop this country programme, UNICEF consulted extensively with national and local governments, development partners, other United Nations organizations and civil society organizations, including analysis of barriers and bottlenecks to social service delivery and the theory of change behind the definition of programmatic results.

20. The country programme's overall goal is to ensure that children, especially the most disadvantaged, fully enjoy their rights to survival, development and protection. It will balance the support to upstream policy work with capacity strengthening to deliver services and to create demand for services in disadvantaged communities. UNICEF will support the Government to address the concluding observations of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

21. To achieve results, the country programme will employ six mutually reinforcing strategies that include: (a) evidence generation and advocacy for policy dialogue to inform and strengthen national policies, laws, budgets and standards; (b) institutional and human capacity strengthening for policy development and execution; (c) communications for development to promote healthy practices and social norms, and to facilitate community mobilization and ownership; (d) service delivery to ensure community demands are met through strengthened integrated outreach services and operational capacities, including essential commodities and supplies; (e) broad partnerships for children to ensure aid effectiveness in line with the Vientiane Declaration II on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, 2016-2025, South-South cooperation, and to leverage resources for children; and (f) innovation to support programme implementation, communications and monitoring of results, including through social media and mobile technology.

22. While the programme operates at the national level in the areas of policy advocacy and capacity strengthening, activities to improve service delivery will focus on seven selected provinces and districts with challenging child development indicators. All UNICEF programmes will promote the resilience of children, families and communities, and enhance national capacity for risk-informed development programming, emergency preparedness and response. A gender lens will be applied throughout all programmes, addressing the barriers that undermine the realization of children's rights.

23. The increase in foreign direct investment and the rapidly growing private sector call for innovative means of engagement with new partners, including the private sector, to enhance corporate social responsibility and social movement for children. UNICEF will play a lead role in key sectors, focusing strategically on result areas where it has technical expertise and comparative advantages, such as nutrition, WASH, education and child protection.

Health and nutrition

24. The programme will ensure that more children and women, especially the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach, utilize quality health and nutrition services and benefit from positive care practices during pregnancy, childbirth and early childhood in line with the Eighth Health Sector Development Plan, 2016-2020.

25. UNICEF will strengthen the institutional and human capacity of the Ministry of Health to deliver evidence-based intervention packages that address the major causes of mortality and undernutrition in children and women, including: (a) maternal and neonatal care interventions; (b) preventive child health and nutrition interventions, including immunization, infant and young child feeding, micronutrients and deworming; and (c) curative child health and nutrition interventions, including integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses and severe acute malnutrition.

26. UNICEF will prioritize equity-focused delivery platforms, such as integrated health outreach and community-based programmes, and strengthen supply chain management systems for child survival and nutrition commodities. It will support health system strengthening approaches at the subnational level to build provincial and district management capacity for evidence-based planning, implementation and monitoring. UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of the Government for disaster risk reduction in the health sector, including emergency preparedness, response and resilience-building, and fulfil its mandate as nutrition-cluster-lead and health cluster member, should any emergencies occur.

27. UNICEF will work with government counterparts, mass organizations, national and local opinion leaders, development partners, United Nations organizations and civil society organizations to implement evidence-based communication approaches that promote the adoption of positive care practices, address social norms affecting maternal and child health and nutrition, improve community ownership and health sector responsiveness to community needs.

28. The programme will support data collection, analysis and use. UNICEF will support national and subnational surveys, the strengthening of the health management information system and the modelling of information communication technology-based innovation in line with the e-health strategy.

29. UNICEF will enhance its engagement in national and sector coordination mechanisms and forums for aid effectiveness, and advocate for increasing domestic financing in the health and nutrition sectors. UNICEF will strengthen its partnership with Luxembourg, the European Union, the GAVI Alliance, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank and civil society organizations to expand the scope and quality of essential services.

Water, sanitation and hygiene and climate change resilience

30. The programme will ensure that the most disadvantaged children and their families have equitable access to and use of sustainable improved water sources and sanitation facilities, and adopt hygiene practices.

31. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Health and other related ministries to support the development and implementation of WASH and climate change resilience policies, including the national strategy on sanitation and hygiene.

UNICEF will support the review and revision of guidelines, standards and designs of packages for WASH facilities in communities and schools, strengthen coordination mechanisms, and support the development and use of WASH information management systems.

32. UNICEF will support community resilience-building in response to climate change and natural disasters through the national adaptation programme of action and the national disaster management plan. Communities and schools will be mobilized to raise awareness of water conservation, environmental preservation and resilience development to climate change.

33. UNICEF will strengthen the institutional and human capacities of partners, including civil society organizations, for effective service delivery. More women will be encouraged to become members of WASH committees in communities to support women's engagement in community development.

34. UNICEF will support the implementation of the WASH package, including behavioural change communication interventions in selected schools and communities on the sustainable use of WASH facilities, hygiene practices and disaster risk reduction.

35. UNICEF will partner with Australia, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and international non-governmental organizations to support the WASH sector. As cluster lead for WASH in emergencies, UNICEF will work with the Government and cluster members to strengthen capacity for emergency preparedness and response. Disaster risk reduction and community resilience will be further harmonized within WASH development activities.

Education

36. The programme will ensure that children, especially the most disadvantaged and in hard-to-reach areas, have access to quality early childhood and basic education services, and complete the basic education cycle with improved learning outcomes, in line with the Eighth Education Sector Development Plan, 2016-2020.

37. UNICEF will work with partners to influence education policy, and advocate for increased investments in equitable early childhood and primary education, and develop a national costed action plan for early childhood education. In collaboration with other partners, UNICEF will support the revision of the pre-primary curriculum, including the assessment for learning. National education quality standards for pre-primary schools will be developed and monitored.

38. UNICEF will strengthen institutional and human capacity for the Ministry of Education and Sports, district education and sports bureaux, village education development committees, teachers and school principals, including continuous school-based teacher professional development and instructional leadership enhancement, particularly in educationally disadvantaged provinces. Various modalities will be explored, including the use of mobile technologies and district pedagogical advisors, to establish peer support and coaching networks.

39. UNICEF will further support expanding the community-based school readiness programme, which will support the introduction of home-based parenting

interventions in remote communities to actively engage parents and caregivers in children's development and entry into primary schools.

40. UNICEF will focus on supporting knowledge generation and evidence-based sector planning and management. It will support capacity strengthening to analyse and use data from education management information systems at district and school levels. It will support baseline and end-line surveys and studies, including out-of-school children studies, key education quality standards indicators, teacher-classroom interaction practices and student learning outcomes.

41. UNICEF will partner with Australia, JICA, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), USAID, the European Union, the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Education, United Nations organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Food programme (WFP), and other development partners and civil society organizations to support education sector development. UNICEF will continue to co-lead the education cluster to mainstream disaster risk reduction in education and support districts and schools in strengthening their capacity for emergency preparedness and response.

Child protection

42. The programme will ensure that children are better protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. It will strengthen policy, legislative and institutional frameworks, and improve access to and delivery of family support and community-based child protection services.

43. To strengthen child protection systems, UNICEF will support advocacy for policy and legal frameworks; development of quality standards, guidelines and operating procedures for referral and provision of services; capacity development of child protection professionals and service providers; and strengthening of institutional mechanisms to ensure inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination among stakeholders.

44. UNICEF will work closely with the National Commission for Mothers and Children, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the justice sector to support the modelling of services at community level, expand and improve delivery of and access to quality family support and community-based services, prevent and respond to violence against children, and address cross-cutting issues such as child marriage, birth registration and disability. Stimulating demand for services at the individual, family and community levels will be a crucial element of the approach.

45. UNICEF will support partners to engage with parents and caregivers concerning attitudes and beliefs towards physical punishment, other forms of violence and exploitation, and child-rearing practices through behavioural change communication to address social norms and behaviours to improve childcare and protection practices.

46. UNICEF will focus on strengthening data collection, monitoring and reporting to raise awareness of child rights and inform policies and programmes.

47. UNICEF will work in close partnership with Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, Save the Children, United Nations organizations, and other international non-governmental organizations and civil

society organizations, and will continue to engage in the social protection cluster for emergencies.

Social inclusion

48. The programme will ensure that the national policy environment and systems for children, particularly the most disadvantaged, are strengthened through improved knowledge and evidence.

49. The social inclusion programme will serve as a knowledge hub and will support the country programme through evidence-generation, policy analysis and advocacy, communication and knowledge management.

50. UNICEF work on social inclusion will focus on supporting disaggregated data collection, analysis and use, inclusive social policy, planning, public finance for children, and strengthening of the national monitoring and evaluation framework of the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020, and the Sustainable Development Goals at national and subnational levels. UNICEF will support national monitoring and reporting of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

51. UNICEF aims to increase awareness of child rights throughout society and promote participation of children and young people to express their views. It will advocate through a variety of platforms and networks, including social media, and explore technology for development and other innovations. It will seek to strengthen social mobilization to promote positive behaviours and address social norms.

52. UNICEF will broaden partnerships with development partners, such as Australia, the European Union, France, Luxembourg, Swiss, the United States, United Nations organizations such as WFP, UNFPA, international non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

Programme effectiveness

53. UNICEF work for programme effectiveness will support efficiency and effectiveness of the country programme, including financial and human resources management, monitoring and evaluation.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Health and nutrition	3 000	13 000	16 000
Water, sanitation and hygiene, and climate change resilience	1 500	11 000	12 500
Education	2 500	9 500	12 000
Child protection	1 500	7 000	8 500
Social inclusion	3 000	7 000	10 000
Programme effectiveness	1 380	2 500	3 880
Total	**12 880**	**50 000**	**62 880**

Programme and risk management

54. The Ministry of Planning and Investment will assume overall coordination of the country programme and delegate coordination of programme components to related line ministries. Under its leadership, work plans will be agreed with related government counterparts, the National Assembly, mass organizations and civil society organizations at national and subnational levels to ensure efficient and effective programme implementation and regular field monitoring. An annual country programme review will be conducted to review progress and respond to emerging issues.

55. The risk management strategy will be updated to mitigate risks in achieving programme results. Disasters can disrupt planned activities and pose threats to children's rights. UNICEF and partners will take a risk-informed approach to development programming and monitor disaster risks closely to ensure rapid adjustments in prevention, preparedness and response.

56. As development partners adapt their assistance strategies to better reflect the country's economic transition, there may be challenges leveraging resources for the most vulnerable children in hard-to-reach areas. This challenges UNICEF to expand partnerships and enhance resource mobilization efforts, including through innovative donor advocacy and increased domestic expenditure on social sector development.

57. The limited capacity of implementing partners to report timely financial and programmatic implementation could hinder programme implementation. Strengthening the capacity of partners as part of the harmonized approach to cash transfers, including through joint monitoring visits, micro-assessments and spot checks, will reduce the risk.

58. This country programme document outlines contributions by UNICEF to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level.

Monitoring and evaluation

59. The results and resources framework will be the basis for monitoring and evaluation. The five-year integrated monitoring and evaluation plan, complemented by the costed evaluation plan, will define priority monitoring and thematic evaluation activities. Two key evaluations will be conducted: (a) evaluation of UNICEF support to scaling up nutrition in the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and (b) formative evaluation for the scaling up of the equity-focused community-based school readiness programme. Those evaluations will inform policy decisions to improve programme design and scale up interventions.

60. UNICEF will continue to strengthen national data collection and management systems and support efforts to localize the Sustainable Development Goals and track indicators on key child-related targets. In addition, UNICEF will support government routine monitoring systems with regular field monitoring, jointly with partners. Innovative ways of monitoring will be explored using modern technology

such as mobile phones. UNICEF will accelerate the Monitoring Results for Equity System, with a special focus on underserved and hard-to-reach communities.

61. Annual reviews of the country programme will assess progress and respond to emerging issues. The results of the annual reviews will contribute to the monitoring and reporting of the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, 2016-2020, and the United Nations Partnership Framework, 2017-2021. A mid-term review will be conducted to make strategic adjustments to the programme and provide direction for future cooperation.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Lao People's Democratic Republic — UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42 **National priorities:** Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan: Outcome 2, Outputs 2, 3, 4, 5: Outcome 3, Output 2 SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16, 17
UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF: Outcome 2: By 2021, a comprehensive social protection policy framework is in place for all people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and coverage of social protection programs is extended, in particular to the poor and vulnerable groups. Outcome 3. By 2021, forests and other ecosystems are protected and enhanced, and there is decreased vulnerability to climate-related events and disasters. Outcome 4: By 2021, children and youth enjoy their rights to access inclusive and equitable quality basic education and vocational skills. Outcome 5. By 2021, people enjoy improved access to quality health services, and water, sanitation and hygiene. Outcome 6: By 2021, the most vulnerable people benefit from improved food security and nutrition. Outcome 7: By 2021, national and subnational institutions have improved functions, financing and capacity to deliver and monitor basic services Outcome 8: By 2021, people enjoy improved access to justice and strengthened rule of law, and more effectively participate in national decision-making. **Outcome indicators measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution:** Maternal mortality ratio; Child mortality rate; Percentage of population using improved drinking water source and sanitation facilities; Prevalence of stunting in children under five; Percentage of children (boys/girls) in Grade 1 who benefited from quality early childhood education; Primary education survival rates of girls and boys in the victims of natural disasters index (male/female); Number of men, women and children benefiting from access to formal justice services; Existence of national social protection strategy with institutional capacity to deliver and monitor the services; Annual report against Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan monitoring and evaluation framework
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): Outcome 1–Health; Outcome 3–WASH; Outcome 4–Nutrition; Outcome 5–Education; Outcome 6–Child protection; Outcome 7–Social inclusion.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. By 2021, more children and women in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, especially the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach, utilize quality essential health and nutrition services and benefit from positive care practices during pregnancy, childbirth and early childhood.	**Indicator 1**: Percentage point (pp) difference in diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT) 3 immunization coverage between lowest/highest wealth quintile, province and ethnic groups **Disaggregation**: wealth/province/ethnicity **Baseline**: 45/68/40 pp.; Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) 2011/12 **Target**: Less than 20 pp.	Household-based survey (LSIS and special coverage surveys)	**Output1**. By 2021, improved health sector capacity at the national and subnational levels for integrated reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health (RMNCH) and nutrition service delivery focused on community-based and health outreach delivery platforms. **Output 2**. By 2021, enhanced government capacity for multi-sectoral nutrition coordination, planning, monitoring and evaluation at the national, provincial and district levels.	**Government and institutions:** Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), provincial and district governments, Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC) **Mass organizations**: Lao Women's Union (LWU) **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs):** Save the Children, Population Services International, CARE International, Plan International, Swiss Red Cross, Health Poverty Action **Development**	3 000	13 000	16 000
	Indicator 2: Percentage of breastfed children 6 to 23 months old with minimum dietary diversity **Disaggregation**: wealth, province, ethnicity **Baseline:** To be established through LSIS2 in 2017 **Target:** 10 pp. increase from 2017 baseline	Household-based survey (LSIS and special coverage surveys)					
	Indicator 3: Percentage of pregnant women who took 90+ iron-folic acid (IFA) tablets during last pregnancy **Disaggregation**: wealth, province, ethnicity **Baseline**: 25%, LSIS 2011-	Household-based survey (LSIS and special coverage surveys)					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	2012; [difference pp. by wealth/province/ethnicity — 51/41/29] **Target**: 65% (RMNCH strategy); [less than 20 pp. difference across population groups]			**partners:** European Union (EU), USAID, Luxembourg, JICA, KOICA, World Bank (WB), ADB, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) **Global partnerships:** Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, GAVI Alliance, Global Polio Eradication Initiative **Private sector:** MMG Limited, salt producers, information and communications providers			
	Indicator 4: domestic expenditure on vaccines **Baseline:** $975,346 (2015) **Target:** 1.5 million/per year	UNICEF Supply division data					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
2. By 2021, the most disadvantaged children and their families have equitable access to and use of sustainable improved water sources, sanitation facilities, and adopt hygiene practices	**Indicator 1**: Proportion of the population using an improved source of drinking water **Baseline**: 76% (WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme (JMP) 2015 updates) **Target:** 90%	WHO/UNICEF JMP updates and LSIS	**Output 1.** By 2021, focus provinces and districts have increased capacity to deliver equitable, safe, affordable and climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene at homes and schools **Output 2.** By 2021, WASH associated ministries and departments have strengthened capacity to develop and adopt evidence based equitable and gender-sensitive policies and budgeted plans for scaling up WASH interventions	**Government and institutions:** MoH, MoES, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Public Work and Transport, LFNC **Mass organizations:** LWU **Development partners:** Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), EU, USAID, Poverty Reduction Fund. JICA, KOICA, WB, ADB, WHO, WFP **NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs)**: Plan International, Netherlands Development Organization, KfW Bakkengruppe,	1 500	11 000	12 500
	Indicator 2: Proportion of the population having an improved sanitation facility **Baseline:** 71% (WHO/UNICEF JMP 2015 Update) **Target:** 80%	WHO/UNICEF JMP updates and LSIS					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
				Rural Development Agency			
3. By 2021, children, especially most disadvantaged and in hard-to-reach areas, have access to quality early childhood and basic education services, and complete the basic education cycle with improved learning outcomes.	**Indicator 1:** Percentage of new entrants in Grade 1 of primary education with pre-school experience (boys/girls) **Baseline:** Total: 51.2% (Girls: 52.1%/Boys: 50.3%) (2015) **Target:** 75.0% (Boys: 75.0%/Girls: 75.0%)	Education management information (EMIS), MoES	**Output 1.** By 2021 education related ministries and departments have increased capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate more equity-focused education policies, plans and standards. **Output 2.** By 2021, focus provinces and districts have increased capacity to provide more inclusive, equitable and quality early childhood and basic education services	**Government and institutions:** MoES, MPI, MoH, Nam Saat (MoH), Education Sector Working Group, LFNC **Mass organizations:** LWU **NGOs and CSOs:** Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International **Development Partners:** DFAT, EU, USAID, JICA, KOICA, WB, ADB, GIZ, UNESCO, WFP, UNFPA, FAO, Global Partnership for Education **Inter-governmental:** South-East Asia	2 500	9 500	12 000
	Indicator 2: Repetition rate (RR) and drop-out rate (DR) for Grade 1 and 2 (boys/girls; grade) **Baseline:** **RR** G1: 13.5% (Girls: 12.6% Boys: 14.4%) (2015) G2: 5.6 % (Girls: 4.7% Boys: 6.5%) (2015) **DR** G1: 8.5% (Girls: 8.0% Boys: 9.0%) (2015) G2: 4.7% (Girls: 4.4% Boys: 5.0%) (2015) **Target:** RR G1: 60% decrease G2: 60% decrease	EMIS, MoES					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	DR G1: 40% decrease G2: 40% decrease			Ministers of Education Organization			
	Indicator 3: Children at Grade 5 level of education achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in: (a) reading, and (b) mathematics **Baseline:** (a) 58% (EGRA 2012), (b) TBD (Baseline data to be collected) **Target:** (a) XXX, (b) TBD after the baseline survey (SEA-PLM)	Early grade reading assessment (EGRA), South-East Asia primary learning metric (SEA-PLM), National Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (ASLO)					
	Indicator 4: Gross enrolment rate for lower secondary education (boys/girls) **Baseline:** 78.1% (Girls: 76.0%/Boys: 80.2%) (2015) **Target:** 10% increase	EMIS, MoES					
4. By 2021, children in Lao PDR are better protected from all forms of	**Indicator 1:** Percentage of children aged 2 to 14 who experience violent disciplinary practices	LSIS	**Output 1:** By 2021, strengthened national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling up interventions that prevent and	**Government:** Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice,	1 500	7 000	8 500

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.	**Baseline:** 76% of children aged 2 to 14 **Target:** TBD		respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. **Output 2:** By 2021, enhanced capacity for improved and equitable access to family support and community-based child protection services.	Ministry of Public Security, People's Supreme Court, People's Supreme Prosecutor, Lao Bar Association **Mass organizations:** LWU **National coordination:** National Commission for Mothers and Children, Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee, Committee for the Assistance and Protection of Children **Development partners:** EU, DFAT, Embassy of France, Embassy of the United Kingdom, USAID			
	Indicator 2: Children under-five whose birth is registered **Baseline:** 75% of children under-five years old **Target:** 80% (by 2025)	LSIS					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
5. By 2021, national policy environment and systems are improved for disadvantaged children, guided by knowledge and data.	**Indicator 1:** Disaggregated data used for planning, policy analysis and monitoring of children. **Baseline:** Disaggregated data based on LSIS1 **Target:** Disaggregated data of LSIS2 for social sectors; baseline for the Eighth National Socioeconomic Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals	Two thematic studies and analysis from LSIS2; and policy briefs for social sectors	**Output 1:** By 2021, disaggregated data from surveys and administrative data available and monitoring and evaluation framework strengthened to inform policy, planning, social budgeting, monitoring and evaluation at national and subnational levels. **Output 2:** By 2021, key national partners have increased capacity to plan, implement and monitor strategic communication for social and behavioural change.	**Government and Institutions:** MPI, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, national and provincial assemblies, Ministry of Information Technology and Communication, LFNC **Mass Organizations:** LWU **United Nations partners** UNDP, UNFPA **Development Partners:** EU, DFAT, USAID, WB, ADB, GIZ, Luxemburg **NGOS/CSOs** **Media**	3 000	7 000	10 000
	Indicator 2: Public social sector expenditure for children as a percentage of GDP (health, education and social welfare) **Baseline:** 12.3% education and 5% health **Target:** 17% for education and 9% for health (to be confirmed in 2017 based on the national development plan of the Government)	Government report					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Country programme is effectively and efficiently planned, coordinated, implemented and monitored to achieve results for children.	**Indicator 1:** Number of participatory annual programme reviews conducted during the programme cycle **Baseline:** 5 (2012-2016) **Target:** 5	Annual review reports	**Output 1:** UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design, plan and monitor programmes. **Output 2:** Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.	**UNICEF** **United Nations** **Government**	1 380	2 500	3 880
Total resources					**12 880**	**50 000**	**62 880**